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Style & Home

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Quick Stitch

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pencil skirt
in an evening"*



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Style&Home

Editor

Lorraine Luximon
lorraine.luximon@aceville.co.uk
01206 505420

Deputy Editor

Steph Durrant
stephanie.durrant@aceville.co.uk

Editorial Assistant

Carolyn Kirkpatrick
carolyn.kirkpatrick@aceville.co.uk

Publishing Director

Helen Tudor

Advertisement Sales

Hannah Suttling
hannah.suttling@aceville.co.uk
01206 505495

Sarah Collins

sarah.collins@mspublications.co.uk
01206 506255

Jackie Weddell

jackie.weddell@mspublications.co.uk
01206 506221

Jo Bluck

jo.bluck@aceville.co.uk
01206 506253

Art Director

Phil Dunham

Designers

Gemma Eales
& Jen Kessel

Ad Production

Angela Scrivener

Photography

Cliff Photography www.cliffq.co.uk

Accounts

Denise Bubb
01206 505958

Subscription Enquiries/

Back Issues

01795 592967

Website Enquiries

webmaster@sewmag.co.uk

Newtrade Sales

Marketforce 0203 148 3300

Marketing Manager

Andrea Turner

Subscriptions Executive

Fiona Burrows
fiona.burrows@aceville.co.uk

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Party perfection...



If you're looking to stitch up a new dress or two for the festive season,

then you've come to the right place! Our FREE pattern is a fantastic New Look dress, with four vintage-style looks. Fancy yourself as a demure Audrey Hepburn?

Check out the boat neck style, or if you aspire to the Hollywood glamour of Marilyn, the sweetheart neckline will flatter a more ample cleavage. Plus, it includes a great pattern for a clutch bag, too – just add heels, and you're ready to set the dancefloor alight!

If you're in need of more style advice, then celeb stylist Alex Longmore shows you how to get an A-list look on a lemonade budget! See p31 for the top pattern and fabric picks. Christmas make list longer than your arm? Don't panic! Head to p68 for 10 quick stitch kits and gifts for friends and family. Or why not do a Stuart Hillard and treat your loved ones to a kit, and pass on the stitchy love. Find out more of our favourite home stitcher's plans on p73.

If you have guests visiting over the holidays, our floor cushions make handy pews for younger family members to perch on while playing with all of those new gifts! Made with a simple pinwheel block, the look is so effective (p83). We also have lots of festive decs if your tree could do with an update, including clever felt baubles. Why not pop on a Christmas film and make them with the little ones, for something to keep year after year (p94)?

I hope you all have a wonderful time, from all at *Sew HQ*.

Happy Christmas!

Lorraine

Lorraine Luximon, Editor



How to download the templates for this issue

- 1 To download full-size templates for this issue's projects, visit **www.sewmag.co.uk** then click on the **Templates** tab to view our archive of templates.
- 2 Select the December issue's templates, log in, then click the Download Template tab. The pattern folder will automatically transfer onto your computer. Follow the instructions to print all or selected templates.
- 3 If you haven't already registered, you'll need to create a log-in for our website to allow you exclusive access to all of our free downloads and templates.



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FREE
GIFT!**



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December 2015

FREEBIES & OFFERS

- 11 5-in-1 dress and clutch combo**
Tips and advice for using your FREE New Look pattern.
- 15 50% discount on Simplicity 1156**
Get sizes 20-28 for half price!
- 24 20% Ella James gifts and home décor**
A fab discount for you.
- 26 50% discount on Simplicity 1012**
Stitch up a vintage dress with our special discount.
- 31 50% discount on Simplicity 1105**
Sew an on-trend tent dress, skirt and top from Cynthia Rowley.
- 71 Janome giveaway!**
Enter for a chance to win a Janome embroidery machine.



WIN!



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SEW STYLE

30 pages of fashion, garments & more!

FREE THIS MONTH...



Your FREE New Look 6723 pattern is perfect for stitching that last-minute party dress. With four variations to try, you won't have to worry about wearing the same frock as anyone else! Choose between a sweetheart or boat neckline, plus three sleeve options, and there's a bonus clutch bag pattern!

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11 5-in-1 dress and clutch combo
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Stitch up your very own mascot.



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FREE NEXT MONTH
New Look everyday dresses pattern



Want it now!

Things we're coveting in the world of stitching this month

love it!



WIN
p56

CASHMERETTE PATTERNS

APPLETON DRESS, £14

Play up curves with the new sewing pattern line from Cashmerette blogger, Jenny Rushmore. The classic Appleton wrap dress features a flattering crossover front and comes in sizes 12 to 28, with cup sizes C to H. Visit www.sewbox.co.uk

Includes two vintage patterns



SEW VINTAGE

A real blast from the past, this fabulous *Sew Vintage* bookazine is bursting at the seams with features, patterns and projects fit for a true fashionista. Covering styles from the 1920s to the 1960s, you'll learn about authentic vintage dressmaking and classic trends, plus it comes with two free original Vogue Patterns designs. Priced £9.99, find it in all major supermarkets or at esubscriber.subscribeonline.co.uk/bookazines



SCREEN GODDESS

Curl up this winter under a screen printed quilt by London-based designer, Georgia Bosson. Made in the UK from screen printed linen and organic wadding, the cover features a hand embroidered edition number and there are plenty of other accessories and designs in the collection to coordinate. Prefer to make your own? The crosses print fabric is available to buy for £65 per metre. Visit www.georgiabosson.co.uk

hot
on the
high
street



get the
look!

Strapless scuba dress, £75, www.simplybe.co.uk

Midi dresses are the ultimate in partywear this season and this statement style with a sweetheart neckline designed by Jameela Jamil for Simply Be is right on the mark. Stitch your own with the Sew La Di Da Vintage Audrey dress. Light boning on the bust supports curves and the full skirt is ultra feminine. Available in sizes 6 to 18, visit www.sewladidavintage.com



“Exude vintage glamour in a midi style”



HABBY CHRISTMAS

Looking for a last minute Christmas gift? Take a peek at Jane Foster's new and colourful haberdashery range. You can now find the Devon-based designer's whimsical screen printed illustrations as plush sewing kits in a range of sizes, plus handy storage baskets and fun knitting bags. View the full collection at www.makeinternational.com

DIARY DATES

Until 10th January 2016

THE FABRIC OF INDIA
V&A Museum, London

26th November
**HOUSE OF HACKNEY:
21ST CENTURY INTERIORS
& FASHION**
Fashion and Textile
Museum, London

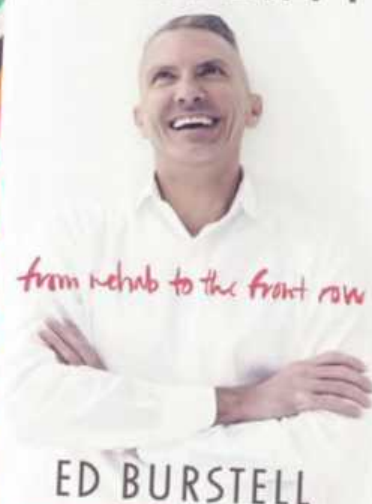
3rd-6th December
COUNTRY LIVING FAIR
Harrogate International
Centre, Yorkshire

3rd-4th December
SELVEDGE WINTER FAIR
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
London

AT LIBERTY

The perfect stocking filler for fans of the famous department store and TV series, *At Liberty: From Rehab to the Front Row* (£20, Michael O'Mara Books) is Ed Burstall's inspirational memoir. Sharing stories from his first job as a spritzer at Macy's to taking the reins as MD at Liberty, it's a witty must-read when you're taking a break from your sewing machine. Find it at www.mombooks.com

AT LIBERTY





What you're saying...

Share your crafty makes and stories with us to be in with the chance of winning a fantastic prize!



picks

www.pinterest.com/sewhq

What we're pinning right now!



www.etsy.com



www.etsy.com/mimikirchner



www.stickytiger.co.uk

"There was a time when I made everything I wore"

I have been sewing since I was 11 years old. There was a time when I made everything I wore, and I have been doing what you call pattern hacking for many years. I once made a skirt from an old 1980s asymmetrical pattern I already had. People thought it was wonderful and I've even been asked if it was shop-bought! Here are some of my latest makes, the first is the top from issue 69. I made it as a birthday present for a friend and embellished it with some jewellery and a rosette I made by hand. The second picture is me in the summer dress from issue 70. I also want to make the jacket from New Look 6035 for my next project, but have yet to find the perfect material. I think sewing is such a good alternative to watching TV in the evening!

Marion Davis

You've certainly been busy making beautiful things, Marion!



Sew Issue 70



"I'm proud of my '60s style"

I wanted to share a picture of one of the many dresses I have made, as I'm very proud of it! I've had a lot of lovely compliments on my vintage look. The pattern is Simplicity 1609, and I have sewn it in a few different colourways. I even had a lady take a photo of me, as she said I looked like I came straight from the '60s. I love wearing my makes to work at my shop, Breakfast at Tiffany's Boutique in Kent.

Laura Dickson

You're a talented lady, Laura. We love your '60s vibe!



"I gave a charity shop buy a new lease of life"

This is a picture of my latest upcycling project. I found a wrap in a charity shop, but decided to give it a new lease of life. I put my sewing machine into action and this easy style kimono top is the result. What a bargain! I look forward to each issue of the magazine as it gives me so much inspiration.

Pauline Hull

This looks super comfy and stylish, Pauline, well done.





WIN *this bumper selection of fabrics!*

This month our Star Letter winner will receive a bumper selection of fabrics from Minerva Crafts worth £50. We also have £10 worth for the runners up. For more stitching goodies, visit www.minervacrafts.com



Show & Tell

Share your latest stitchy triumphs with **sew!**

Star Letter

"This was easy to make and feels wonderful to wear"

I got back into dressmaking after watching the first series of *The Great British Sewing Bee*. The pattern I used for my latest creation is Butterick 6244 and the fabric is a beautiful wool/cashmere mix. It was easy to make, although I lined the sleeves, and it feels wonderful to wear. My next project is the dress from the same pattern which has faux leather insets, it will be the first time I will have attempted to sew with leather-type fabric! I love stitching and look forward to your magazine each month.

Jeanette Parker

We love everything about this Jeanette, from the colour to the cut!



Cheryl Philipsz

I've been sewing Santa sacks for Christmas.



Kathy Trigwell

My doorstop, now proudly propping open the door of the food tech room at school.



Sherry Todd

I made a felt doll with a little bunny for each of my daughters. It was a nice change of pace to hand sew.



"I made seven waistcoats for my son's wedding!"

I was taught to sew by both my grandmas. I studied fashion design and when my boys were little I made wedding dresses and special occasion wear. I am now a design technology teacher specialising in textiles and food tech. I also make bags and vintage dresses in my spare time. I stitched all the waistcoats for my son's wedding this July. They are all made from a brown flecked tweed, which was lovely to work with. The groom's version had special golden buttons

to set him apart, he's standing at the front of my picture. I also made bunting to decorate the venue, my own dress and the wedding cake. It was an amazing day, and worth all my hard work.

Nicola Walsham

What a fab job, Nicola. They all look very smart.



@Barley Massey

My favourite pics from our sewing challenge on #sewsaturday @SewHQ

@amber1118

@SewHQ Sunday crafting with sew magazine



Get in touch Write in and share your creations, tips and views



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*5-in-1 dress and
clutch combo*

*"It's not too
late to stitch
your perfect
party dress!"*

MUST-HAVE MIDI SKIRT

EASY-SEW BLANKET SHAWL



Vintage style... **NEWLOOK® 6723**

Oh-so versatile!

Your **FREE New Look 6723 pattern** is perfect for stitching that last-minute party dress.

With a fitted bodice featuring princess seams and a hip-skimming flared skirt, opt for a sweetheart or boat neckline and three sleeve options, plus it includes a bonus clutch bag pattern for effortless coordination!

Nip in the waist with a tie or buckle



4 FAB LOOKS



Create your own glam look

Style A – long sleeves

- Vintage-inspired style with a boat neckline.
- Three-quarter length sleeves are perfect for winter.



Style B – boat neckline

- Channel Audrey Hepburn with a sleeveless LBD.
- An elegant boat neckline is simple to sew.



Style C – puff sleeves

- Pretty puff sleeves create a feminine look.
- A sweetheart neckline enhances the bust.



Style D – sweetheart neckline

- Sleeveless style with shaped neckline.
- Cinch your waist with an easy tie belt.



**Make a
coordinating
clutch**



*“Set in sleeves
with ease”*

Simplicity explains
how to use gathering
stitches to insert sleeves

Gather up

The top of a sleeve is known as the crown, cap or head. Patterns with inset sleeves have a higher sleeve head that's often 2cm bigger than the armhole and it's this excess fabric that requires easing. To do this, loosen the top tension of your sewing machine and using a 4mm stitch length, add two rows of gathering stitch to the head of the sleeve between the notches using contrasting thread. This should be done within the seam allowance and leaving long thread tails.

Pin placement

If the sleeve has a side seam, machine sew it first. Place the sleeve right side out and place into the dress bodice wrong side out. Match and pin the notches at the underarm and continue each side of the underarm seam until you reach the gathering.

Perfect fit

Pin the top of the sleeve head to the shoulder seam matching the notches with pins at right angles to the fabric edge. Start to pull the gathering threads to ease and distribute the fullness evenly. Do this until the sleeve fits. Tack in place with contrasting thread if desired.

Setting in

Slowly machine sew between the lines of gathering stitch, using matching thread. Keep rotating the fabric as you work so that it remains flat. Remove the gathering stitches and press the seam towards the sleeve.

Necklace and hair jewellery from a selection at Debenhams, bracelet, £14.99, TK Maxx

Sleeve essentials

SET IN THE PERFECT SLEEVE WITH THESE
SEWING CUPBOARD MUST-HAVES



Hemline glass headed
pins, £3.12



Sew Easy curved
ruler, £10.80



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tacking thread,
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To celebrate the launch of Sew Essential's brand-new website, Sew readers can get **10% off** everything at www.sewessential.co.uk. Simply quote SEWMAG10 at the shopping basket screen. Discount valid from 20th November to 31st December.





HOW I MADE IT

*Dressmaker Vie Millard
test runs New Look 6723*

- Before using expensive material, it is an idea to find a silk garment in a charity shop and alter it to get used to sewing with the fabric. If you are lucky enough to find silk curtains, you could use them to make your party dress!
- Once you have your body measurements, cut your fabric carefully on the straight grain. This really does make a big difference to the look of your finished garment.
- Princess seams go together easier if you snip into the seam allowance around the curve of the bust shaping on the centre front panel. This allows the curve to open to fit the side front piece.
- When attaching the facing to the boat neckline, leave the machine needle in a down position, raise the foot and pivot at the shoulder seam. Snip carefully into the seam after layering and understitch all layers towards the facing.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

ADD SOME ICE TO YOUR OUTFIT
WITH THESE DIAMANTÉ BUYS



Steve Madden
sandals, £85, Dune

Bea crystal
earrings, £15,
Phase Eight



Bernadette
clutch, £59,
Dune

Pattern on test

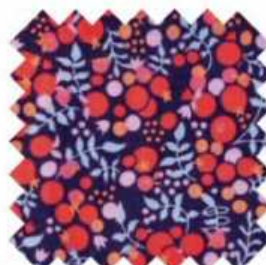


the haberdashery



Shot silk

For true vintage elegance, try this shot silk dupion in Red and Royal Blue, priced £20 per metre, www.trurofabrics.com, 01872 276820.



Lovely lawn

This Retro Berries cotton lawn is ideal for making a cute clutch bag to complement your outfit. Priced £14 per metre, www.trurofabrics.com, 01872 276820.

Audrey Hepburn inspired!



NEED AN ALTERNATIVE SIZE?



If you like the sleeved style of New Look 6723 but require a larger size, we're offering Simplicity 1156 in sizes 20-28 for the special price of £4.08 (RRP £8.15) plus 85p postage by quoting SEW1156 at www.simplicitynewlook.com upon checkout. Offer available from 20th November to 18th December.



**Silk dupion
gives an
iridescent sheen**



**NEXT
MONTH'S
FREE
PATTERN**

Whip up an easy swing dress with your **FREE** New Look 6340 pattern. The trapeze shape makes it simple to fit and there are a range of neckline, pocket and sleeve variations to try. On sale 18th December.

Really easy

winter wrap

Sew a stylish accessory
to vamp up your wardrobe

Essentials

- Wool fabric, 2m
- Medium weight fusible interfacing, 20cm x 25cm

Dimensions

70cm x 195cm

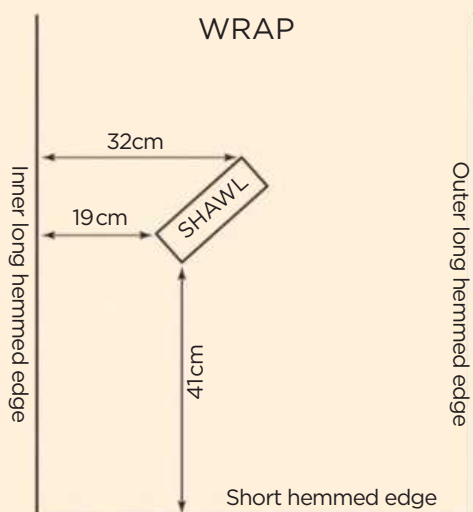
stitch a shawl

1 Cut a 10cm wide strip from one short edge of tweed fabric to leave a 75cm x 2m rectangle for the shawl. Set the strip aside. To hem, press under 1cm then 1.5cm on the short edges and stitch. Repeat on the long sides.

2 Cut two 8cm x 20cm rectangles from the fabric set aside and medium weight interfacing. Press the interfacing to the reverse. Pin and stitch the pieces together around the outer edges, right sides facing, using a 1cm seam allowance and leaving a gap. Turn out and press. Slipstitch the gap closed.

3 Slip the shawl over your shoulders with the short edges level, right side facing out. Fold back the inner long edge at the centre back 8cm to form a collar, pin in place. Remove the wrap and secure with a few stitches.

4 Referring to the diagram, pin the strap to the left-hand end of the shawl. Stitch in place close to the short edges then again, 6mm in. To wear, slip the right-hand end of the shawl through the strap, folding the fabric to lay in pleats.



Perfect pleats

To keep the pleats in place, pin then stitch across the folds. Stitch again 6mm below the first line to secure.



the haberdashery



Wool fabric

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wool fabric, £13 per
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overit.co.uk), 0207
833 8600.

Sassy split **pencil skirt**

Turn heads in this
chic midi style

This versatile skirt by Amanda Walker is a wardrobe must-have this season, with its midi length and striking print. It's simple to sew, with just three pattern pieces, and features a subtle slit at the centre front and a concealed zip side closure. Make in a statement cotton and team with a cami for an evening out, or choose a plain crêpe or lightweight wool to match with a sweater for boardroom chic.

Jumper, £24.99, TK Maxx, necklace, £25, bracelet, £15, both Betty Jackson at Debenhams

Essentials

Stretch cotton, 1m

Fusible interfacing

Concealed zip, 9"

Hook and bar

Dimensions

Finished Measurements	Small	Medium	Large
Waist	68cm	72cm	87cm
Hip	91cm	95cm	101cm

Use a 1.5cm seam allowance, except for the centre front seam which is 2cm

sew a midi skirt

1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the pattern. Cut out the pieces from fabric and neaten the side and centre front seam edges by overlocking or zig zag stitching. Sew the darts at the top of the front skirt pieces and press them towards the centre front. Repeat on the back skirt and press the darts towards the centre back.

2 Stitch the centre front seams right sides together from the waist edge, as far as the notch for the split. Back tack to reinforce. Sew the front and back skirts right sides together at the side seams. On the left side seam, stitch as far as the notch, leaving a gap at the top for the zip. Press all the seams open.

3 To insert a concealed zip, fold and press the seam allowance along the side opening. Open out the seam allowance and with the right side of the fabric facing up, place the opened zip face down matching the teeth to the crease line in the seam allowance. Pin in place.

4 If you are using a concealed zipper foot, place the teeth of the zip into the groove and as you stitch, the foot will uncurl the teeth and the stitching will appear alongside. If you are using a normal zipper foot, you will need to uncurl the teeth with your fingertips. Stitch to the top of the side seam. Back stitch, then sew the other side of the zip in place. Carefully thread the zip pull through to the right side and pull up to close.

5 Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the waistband using a pressing cloth and plenty of steam. Pin the waistband to the top edge of the skirt with right sides facing. Pin in place leaving the hook and bar extension protruding from the back top side seam. Fold the waistband in half lengthways, right sides together, then stitch the ends.

6 Turn the waistband out, press the waist seam allowances up into the waistband, then turn in the 1.5cm seam allowance on the inside and match the folded line to the stitching line. Pin, then hand slip stitch in place. Add a hook and bar on either side of the waistband tab.

7 Overlock or zig zag stitch the hem of the skirt, then folder under 4cm and press. Hand stitch the hem from the corner of the front split with a hemming stitch, finishing on the opposite side of the slit.



the haberdashery



Stretch cotton

Make a statement with this eye-grabbing Aztec print stretch cotton, priced £12.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com, 01254 708068.

Size matters!

Choose your pattern size using your hip measurement and alter the waist if required.

fashion forecast

PURPLE HAZE

A party dress in luxe fabrics and rich colours is a must-have for the festive period. When it comes to choosing the right shade, purple is the hue of the season, and it will bring opulence to your handmade garment. Be ready to wow in a sumptuous velvet or a winter floral!



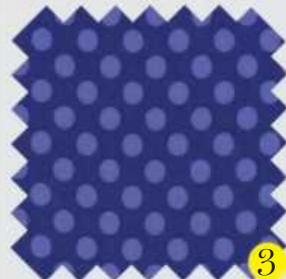
*Shades of
purple are
a big trend
this season*



*"Berry, aubergine and
amethyst are your
Christmas go-to tones
for party dressmaking"*

**Carolyn Kirkpatrick,
Sew Editorial Assistant**

FABRIC PICKS



- 1** Plain polycotton dress fabric in Purple
- 2** Floral print microfibre fabric in Purple & Orange by John Kaldor
- 3** Ta Dot poplin in Violet by Michael Miller
- 4** Cotton velvet dress fabric in Purple
- 5** Floral stretch cotton by John Kaldor

All featured fabrics are available from Minerva Crafts from £2.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com



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Q&A

Whatever your sewing problem, our experts have the answer!

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There are lots of PDF patterns I'd love to try but don't have the confidence. Any advice please?

Laura Porter

Guest expert Christine says



Christine Haynes

is a US-based sewing author, teacher and pattern designer with her own line of vintage-inspired sewing patterns. Find out more at www.christinehaynes.com

The first thing to consider when printing a PDF pattern is the scale. Most patterns will have a test square, typically on the first page, where you can check to make sure that the scale is set correctly. If the test square is too big, every piece of the pattern will be the same, and likewise if the test square is too small. You want the dimensions of the pattern to be correct, so be sure to set your printer to print at 100% scale, and be sure to uncheck the button that says 'scale to fit' so it doesn't make everything too large or too small.

“ Be sure to set your printer to print at 100% scale ”

Once you have your pages printed, I suggest trimming the right and bottom of each page to the border, which will allow you to easily overlap the left and top edge of the corresponding pages to create your entire pattern. In order to avoid doing this again in the future, consider tracing off your pattern onto Swedish tracing paper. This will allow you to make alterations and changes to the traced pattern and will keep the original intact. From there, just use the tracing paper pieces to cut your fabric and make your muslin.

Emery Dress
PDF pattern, \$14,
www.christinehaynes.com



What exactly is a toile and how do I go about making one?

Ronnie Bateman



Lisa Comfort

set up the Sew Over It sewing café in Clapham, London in 2011 and recently opened her second store in Islington. She has also penned books, including *Sew Over It Vintage* (£15, Ebury Press). Find out more at www.sewoverit.co.uk

Lisa says

A toile (or muslin) is a practise garment made from inexpensive fabric to test the fit of a pattern. Toiles allow you to make adjustments to the pattern before you sew the real thing. For this reason, it is important that the fabric has a similar weight and drape to your final cloth. For anything structured I tend to use calico (a cheap unbleached stiff cotton), and for drapery garments I'll use a lightweight polyester. Sometimes several toiles have to be made before the fit is spot on, but usually making just one will give you an idea of what alterations you need to do.

Toiles can typically be made faster than the finished garment because there is no need to finish the seams, or add buttonholes or decorative details. I like to use a longer stitch length when I'm sewing toiles as it makes ripping seams a lot easier if I have to make any alterations. Annoying as they might be though, it does help to properly insert a zip if required; don't skimp on this!

Once you have sewn the mock-up, you can try it on and identify any fit problems. Are the darts pointing in the right direction? Are the side seams straight? Is the garment gaping at all? Are there drag lines? Is fabric pooling at the hollow of your back? The beauty of a toile is that you can draw any adjustments directly onto it as you're wearing it, before transferring these adjustments to your flat pattern.

“A toile is a practise garment made from inexpensive fabric”



Are there any special considerations when cutting out patterns from knit fabrics?

Emily Cooper

Claire-Louise says

The most important thing to consider when laying out pattern pieces on a knit fabric is working out the direction of the greatest stretch. Some fabrics will stretch only on the straight of grain or only on the cross grain, known as two directional stretch. Your pattern will have an arrow that needs to be lined up along the direction of greatest stretch. Other knits will stretch on both the straight of grain and the cross grain, these are known as four way stretch fabrics. Again, you need to find out which direction is the stretchiest.

When cutting out your pieces, you may find it difficult with the fabric folded, especially really elastic types like Lycra. Try laying your pattern as a single layer and cutting each piece out separately. You'll need to 'mirror' all your pieces so you get a left and right side.

Make sure there's no fabric hanging off the edge of your table as you cut. The weight of the over hanging piece will distort it as you cut out.



Claire-Louise Hardie

trained as a costume designer and has been the sewing producer on all three series of the *Sewing Bee*. She also runs workshops at her sewing school The Thrifty Stitcher in Stoke Newington. www.thethriftystitcher.co.uk



“Find out which direction is the stretchiest”

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Lauren Guthrie

“I can’t wait for all the exciting new things that having a baby will bring!”

The past year seems to have really flown by for me. After having my shop for over two and half years, I find that I’m always thinking ahead so much more and planning new things, which seems to make the months pass quicker. Last winter I really enjoyed taking time to stitch a warm woollen coat and the change of sewing pace that is involved in a more complex project like that. This winter I’m making a Papercut Patterns Milano Cape and I’m going to take my time and avoid rushing like I usually do. I’m hoping that it will make me slow down a bit in general!

Running my own business has been a huge learning curve for me. I’ve never done anything like this before and find that I have new challenges to work out all the time. Over the past year I’ve been spending a lot of time on making sure that it continues to run as smoothly as possible. I’ve been working behind the scenes and thinking of ways we can do things better and more efficiently. We are now open six days a week, which initially felt like a lot of extra work, but it actually means that we can keep on top of things better. I’ve also expanded the team and have more help to run the shop and teach workshops, which makes things much more manageable in the long run for me. That’s going to become even more important over the next six months – because I’m pregnant!

Ayaz and I are thrilled and can’t wait for all the exciting new things that having a baby will bring! I’ll try to not go on about it too much, but I’ve got lots of maternity pattern adaption ideas and I know I won’t be able to resist making super cute baby clothes!

Other highlights for 2015 for me have been putting together blog posts. Back in May I wrote a whole series on the Simple Sleeveless Top from my book, *Learn to Sew with Lauren*, and I’ve really enjoyed seeing so many different variations of it online. My favourite was the one with fine pin tucks. I love adding neat little details like that to the things I make. Summer Dress Season in July was also a lot of fun! Who wouldn’t want to make and



Lauren Guthrie on her highs of 2015 and festive plans

i love...



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WWW.GUTHRIE-GHANI.CO.UK

wear lots of dresses? The party we had at the end of the series was also fantastic and it was great to see so many of our lovely customers inspired to make their own frocks.

Recently we have had a shop refit and we now have much more space for fabric. We are literally bursting at the seams with a much bigger selection of dressmaking ones!

With the festive season in full swing I’m really looking forward to our Christmas Party Night on 3rd December. Tickets are on sale now and include mulled wine and refreshments, a visit from Santa, a fantastic raffle and lots of special offers. We also still have places left on some of our seasonal workshops, including Make a Patchwork Quilted Stocking on Saturday 5th or Wednesday 9th December and my favourite so far, Make a Sequin Party Top on Friday 27th November.

Happy Christmas!

On my Christmas list

A Prym Bobbin Ring

– to help keep my sewing box more organised!



Scissor sharpener

I’ve been cutting out sequins a lot and this will be great for keeping my shears in tip top condition.

A Scissor brooch

I have my eyes on one by Naomi Greaves at www.notonthehighstreet.com

Visit www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk

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STYLE SCHOOL

Look fabulous whatever your shape

We all want to look our best for party season, and the joy of making your own frock is you can create something to fit you perfectly! When pattern shopping, colour blocking options are worth looking out for, as they are flattering for all figures.

This month, we have 50% off Simplicity 1012, a retro style which has a colour block option to cinch the waistline, which we just love!



Pattern of the Month

Based on a genuine vintage pattern, you can head back to the 1960s with this vintage dress which has neckline and sleeve variations to suit your style. Make it retro in colour blocked panels, or go classic in a single fabric and colour. Best of all the pattern is available up to size 28, allowing curvy ladies to look swinging too!

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Buy Simplicity 1012 for the special price of £4.08 plus 85p P&P (rrp £8.15) from www.simplicitynewlook.com and quote SEW1012. Offer valid 20th November to 18th December.



VINTAGE STYLE

“Stitch a retro look”

Work & Play

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Simplicity 1537 is a versatile pattern worth adding to your collection, featuring three length and sleeve variations. With princess seams to contour your curves, and a drop waist to elongate the body, it's great for all shapes. **£8.15**



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LEARN WITH... Tanya Whelan BOND GIRL DRESS

*You will discover countless design possibilities with this classic fitted bodice and straight skirt which make up into a chic fitted wiggle dress fit for a Bond girl. Depending on the fabric you choose, it is versatile enough to transition from day to night. These instructions are for a dress with a side zip.
For a back opening, add 1.5cm to the back bodice pattern.*

Dimensions
12 sizes (see pattern for size chart)
Use a 1.5cm seam allowance unless otherwise stated

1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk to download the pattern. Trace and cut out the front and back bodice, and the front and back straight skirt patterns. Then trace the armhole and neckline of the front and back bodices to make the patterns for the bodice facings. Make them at least 5cm wide, plus seam allowances, and trace to within 1mm to 3mm of the edge [**1**].
2 Cut the pieces from main fabric, facing material, and interfacing. Sew the darts on the front and back bodice. Press the waist darts towards the centre and the bust darts downwards [**2**]. With right sides together, sew the front bodice to the back bodice at the shoulders and one side seam. The zip will be inserted

at the other side. Press the seams open.

3 Apply interfacing to the wrong side of the facing pieces. Sew the armhole facings with right sides together at the shoulder and the side seam of one pair. Press all the seams open. Sew the front neck facing to the back neck facing with right sides together at the shoulder. Press the seams open.

4 With right sides together, sew the neck and armhole facings to the bodice [**3**]. Grade all seam allowances, clip the curves, and understitch the armhole and neckline seam allowances to the facing. Press the facings to the

inside of the bodice.

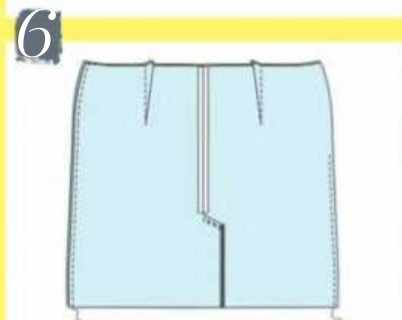
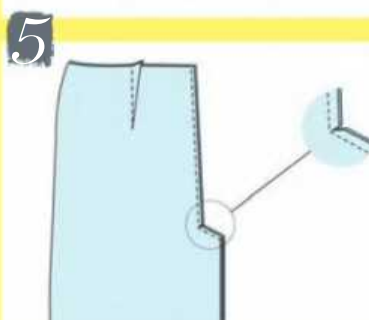
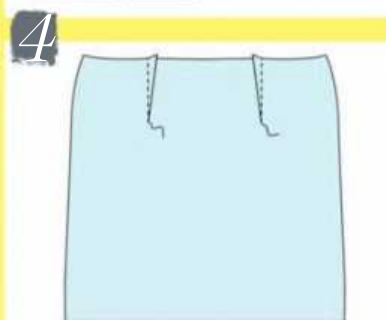
5 Sew the back skirt darts and press towards the centre. Overlock or zig zag stitch the straight edge of the vent extensions. Sew the front skirt darts and press towards the centre [**4**]. Right sides together, sew the back skirt pieces together from the centre back waist and along the top edge of the vent extension. Cut a notch as shown [**5**]. Press the back seam open. Press the vent extension to one side and stitch diagonally along its top edge to the skirt.

6 With right sides together, sew the back of the skirt to the front along one side seam. Sew the other side seam, where the zip will be inserted,

to within 20.5cm of the waist. Press the seams open [**6**].

7 To attach the skirt to the bodice, make sure all seams are pressed open and the darts are pressed towards the centre front and centre back. Place the bodice inside the skirt, right sides together, raw edges and side seams aligned. Pin and stitch. Insert an invisible zip at the side opening.

8 Unfold the vent extension and press the hem to the inside by 2.5cm. Repeat and sew close to the folded edge. Make a few hand stitches through the edge of the folded vent extension through one layer of the fold of the hem to secure.





"It's easy to become the designer by teaming the bodice with a different skirt"

Steph Durrant,
Sew Deputy Editor

get the book



Mix and match bodice and skirt patterns with *Sew Many Dresses*, *Sew Little Time* by Tanya Whelan (£21.99, Potter Craft). Visit www.thegmcgroup.com

next month...

Mary Abreu's collared girl's dress.



*Curve
hugging
wiggle
dress*

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A-LIST LOOKS

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outfit in time for
party season,
whatever your
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or style*



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CELEBRITY STYLIST
ALEX LONGMORE
HAS DRESSED
ICONS INCLUDING
JOANNA LUMLEY,
TWIGGY AND
CLAUDIA SCHIFFER.

HERE SHE SHARES HER TOP TIPS
FOR ACHIEVING STAR STATUS
FOR THAT FESTIVE SOIRÉE.

The party season is the most glamorous time of the year, when we have the opportunity to get dressed up like our favourite A-list celebrities. I've noticed lots of sparkly numbers hitting the shops and the key trends for this season seem to be sequins and the little black dress. Both of which I love to style my clients in as they can be super flattering if worn in the right way.

Remember a little goes a long way with sequins, so opt for separate pieces which are much easier to mix into your wardrobe. A sequined skirt, vest or bolero jacket can be worn with just about anything from chiffon skirts to slim cigarette pants. Sequins are also the perfect option for revamping an outfit you've had for some time. Why not add some to the hem of a dress, or the neckline in place of a statement necklace?

*"Most of us will
have an LBD which
just needs a bit of
revamping"*

Thank goodness the little black dress is such a trend again! Most of us will have one lurking in our cupboard already which could just do with a bit of revamping (cue that sequined bolero jacket). But if you do decide to make one, there are plenty of options to suit your body shape. As a rule, I would go for a tailored style cut just above the knee.

Add some celeb sparkle with the right jewellery, which should be lighter in colour than your outfit. Dainty pieces don't work so well with a completely black dress, so go bold. You could also team with a brightly coloured coat or jacket in a pillar box shade to ensure you look tailored, elegant and red carpet ready!

For more style advice
from Alex, visit
www.alexlongmore.co.uk



Casual elegance Emma Willis

Presenter Emma Willis has gone for a flattering trapeze dress which is a dark colour on top with a flash of colour at the hem, drawing your eye in that direction. The loose-fitting shape is perfect for disguising a bigger tummy and broader hips. Stitch yours in a flowing satin or crêpe.

STITCH IT WITH...



Cynthia Rowley 1105,
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Hollywood glamour Jennifer Hudson

This strapless dress flatters singer Jennifer Hudson's curves in all the right places. A peplum style teamed with a waist belt creates that coveted hourglass figure. Try stitching in a plain cotton sateen for a subtle sheen to your outfit and add a few statement accessories.

STITCH IT WITH...



McCall's 6894, £8.75,
www.sewdirect.com

Stretch cotton
sateen in Yellow,
£7.99 per metre,
www.minervacrafts.com



WEAR IT WITH...

Chandelier earrings, £10,
www.next.co.uk



CREATE
A SLEEK
SILHOUETTE

Vintage inspired

Helen Mirren

CHOOSE
A BOLD
PRINT

The 70 year old actress wears this bold midi dress with confidence. The quirky, painterly print adds a fun juxtaposition to the vintage-inspired shape, and the full skirt skims hips and will create movement on the dance floor!

STITCH IT WITH...



Gather The Mortmain, £14, www.gatherkits.com



Wildflowers in White, Flora by Kelly Ventura for Windham fabrics, £14 per metre, www.misformake.co.uk

WEAR IT WITH...

Limited Edition sporty bag, £39.50, www.marksandspencer.com



Bond girl style

Monica Bellucci

Achieve fashion 00-heaven just like Spectre actress Monica Bellucci in a sumptuous full-length velvet gown. The V-neckline and mock-wrap bodice with pleated detail are ideal for those with an apple shape and it's worth conquering sleeves for a winter-friendly dress that's perfect for showing off at the Casino Royale.



LUXE
VELVET

STITCH IT WITH...

Simplicity 2053, £8.15, www.simplicitynewlook.com



Cotton velvet in Purple, £8.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com

WEAR IT WITH...

Bentley clutch, £69, www.dunelondon.com



Contemporary cool

Elizabeth Banks

Mix it up this party season with a chic jumpsuit like Hollywood actress, Elizabeth Banks. Choose opulent fabrics such as a brocade or crêpe back satin and look for patterns with interesting cut-outs, if you're brave enough!

STITCH IT WITH...



Simplicity 1158, £8.15, www.simplicitynewlook.com

Viva Espana satin, £9.95 per metre, www.croftmill.co.uk



WEAR IT WITH...

Norah belt, £19, www.dune.com

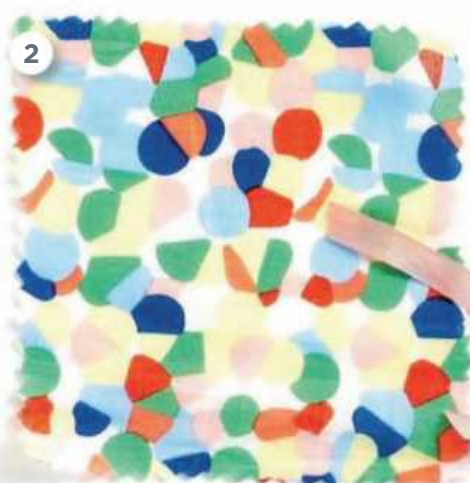


ULTIMATE
CHIC!

love that FABRIC *Printed silks*

“Create the ultimate occasion gown in a striking silk print”

Steph Durrant, Sew Deputy Editor



FABRIC SHOPPING

1 Silk crêpe de chine, £38 per yard, www.spoonflower.com

2 Circles in White/Multi silk/cotton blend, £6.50 per metre, www.textileexpressfabrics.co.uk, 01691 670562.

3 Silk 7mm ribbon in rosey mauve, £1 per metre, www.craftyribbons.com, 01258 455889.

4 Summer Flowers Orchid in Powder Blue polyester satin, £6.50 per metre, www.croftmill.co.uk, 01282 859281.

5 Meadow Sweet Cherry Blossom crêpe de chine, £24.50 per metre, www.beckfordsilk.co.uk, 01386 881507.

6 Tree Blossom Pinks satin, £24.50 per metre, www.beckfordsilk.co.uk, 01386 881507.

7 Half ball bridal satin buttons, from £1.19 each, www.myfabrics.co.uk

8 Green floral digital print silk, £22.50 per metre, www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk, 01214 498419.

9 Berries & Leaves in Beige vintage silk, £16.99 per metre, www.dittofabrics.co.uk, 01273 757286.



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*Sewing Bee judge
May Martin shares her
dressmaking secrets*

Trousers are a staple garment in your wardrobe and finding a pair that fits well can be a challenge. The size you buy in ready-to-wear garments will not match the pattern size that you use. It is therefore essential to take your measurements before selecting your pattern pieces.

Measure up

Start by tying a piece of tubular elastic or fine cord round your middle. This will help you find your natural waistline. Measure your waist along the elastic, then your high hip, which is taken round the body across the top of your hip bones. Also measure around the fullest part of your hips. Record your crotch depth by sitting on a hard surface and measure from the surface to your waist with a ruler. Your crotch length is measured from the waist point at the centre back round to the centre front on the waist. Measure your thighs around the fullest part. Put on the shoes that you are going to wear and measure from your waist at the side to the desired hem length.

Choosing a pattern size

Look at the measurements for each size; these are usually on the pattern envelope. Find the waist size that matches yours, then look at the hip measurement. If the difference is 5cm or less, you can easily make adjustments to the side seams. If it's more than this, choose the pattern size by the hip measurement and adjust the waist to fit. Once you've adjusted your pattern pieces, it is always worth making a mock up or toile out of an inexpensive fabric to make final adjustments on your body. The fashion this season is for looser fitting styles which are much easier to fit.

Until next month,

May Martin

For more dressmaking advice, pick up *May Martin's Sewing Bible: 40 Years of Tips and Tricks* (£25, HarperCollins).



Pattern

Exclusive style advice

COMFY AND STYLISH WIDE

Drawstring waist

A drawstring waist and relaxed fit make this a really good pattern to start your trouser making journey. Loose and comfortable, they are a fantastic style for travelling or lounging in.



New Look 6271
Sizes 10-22

SKIRT AND
SHORTS
OPTIONS
TOO

Why not try?

New Look 6710
Sizes 10-22

ELASTICATED
HEM VARIATION



Picks

with May Martin

LEGGED TROUSERS

Semi-fitted

This Amazing Fit pattern has three different designs to suit curvy, slim and average body shapes, making choosing a style to suit much easier.



Simplicity 1017
Sizes 6-22

GREAT FIT
FOR ALL!

Best of the rest

Colette Patterns
Juniper
Sizes 0-18
CLASSIC FLY
FRONT



Just for knits

These trousers can be made from jersey and the elastic band round the waist breaks up the mid-section, creating detail on a long body.



New Look 6381
Sizes 8-20

COMFY
PULL-ON
STYLES

STOCKIST INFORMATION

For Simplicity and New Look patterns, visit www.simplicitynewlook.com, 0161 480 8734.
For McCall's patterns, visit www.sewdirect.com, 0844 880 1263.
For Colette Patterns, visit www.sewbox.co.uk, 01787 269366.

You may also like

McCall's 6748
Sizes XS-XXL
MAXI SKIRT
OPTION



Most patterns feature international sizes which differ from ready-to-wear sizing. It is essential that you take your exact body measurements and compare with the sizing charts on each pattern



Make & bake

bow apron

Stitch a pretty pinny
with feminine frills

You're sure to look the picture of domesticity in the kitchen this Christmas with this fancy apron made by Stuart Hillard. It's stitched in a cheerful floral repeat designed by Kaffe Fassett, and features lovely pleated details and a useful front pocket. The contrast waistband is long enough to tie in a bow at the front to ensure it doesn't slip off during crucial oven to table manoeuvring!



Essentials

- Floral print fabric, 50cm x width
- Plain cotton, light pink, dark pink, grey, 50cm of each

Dimensions

48cm x 98cm (excluding ties)

make an apron

1 Fold 50cm x width of printed cotton in half, selvedge to selvedge, and press lightly. Tie a length of string to a pencil, then pin at the top of the folded fabric, with the fold on the left. Position the pencil at the bottom fold and mark a quarter circle. Cut on the line and open out to make a semi-circle. Do the same with light pink lining fabric.

2 Create a pocket in the same way as for the apron, using 20cm x 40cm each of floral print fabric and grey cotton for the lining. From grey cotton, also cut three 10cm x width of fabric strips. Join two of them together for the apron frill and set aside.

3 Make the pocket frill by folding the remaining strip in half, wrong sides together, and press. With the right side of the pocket in front of you and starting at one

edge, create 5cm pleats in the strip and pin to the lower curved pocket edge, right sides facing. Trim off any excess length and tack the frill in place. Pin the outer pocket and lining right sides together, with the frill inside. Sew the curved lower edge using a 9mm seam allowance. Turn out and press.

4 Cut a 5cm strip of bright pink cotton and use it to bind the pocket top. Sew with right sides facing to the lining side, then turn the strip to the front and topstitch neatly in place, tucking the raw edges in at each end. Pin the pocket to the apron front, 8cm down from the top raw edge. Stitch in place by sewing 5mm either side of the frill and the pocket.

5 Fold the longer frill strip in half, wrong sides together, and press. Create pleats as before, 8cm apart. Pin, then tack to the lower curved edge of the apron, right sides facing. Pin the apron front and lining right sides together with the frill inside. Sew the curved edge of the apron using a 9mm seam allowance. Leave the straight top edge open. Turn out and press. Topstitch the seam 9mm from the curved edge.

6 To make the waist tie, cut three 16cm x width of fabric strips from bright pink cotton. Join them together to make one

continuous piece. Press the seam allowances open. Fold the strip in half lengthways, right sides together, and sew down the long edge. Turn the strip out and centre the seam along the back. Press.

7 Turn the short raw edges of the strip in and press. Fold over the top raw edge of the apron by 2cm and press. Tack in place. Centre the waist tie onto the apron top edge, wrong side to right side. Make sure that the tacked top edge of the apron is 5mm down from the top of the waist tie. Pin then sew the waist band in place along the top edge. Remove the tacking, then topstitch all the way around the waist tie.

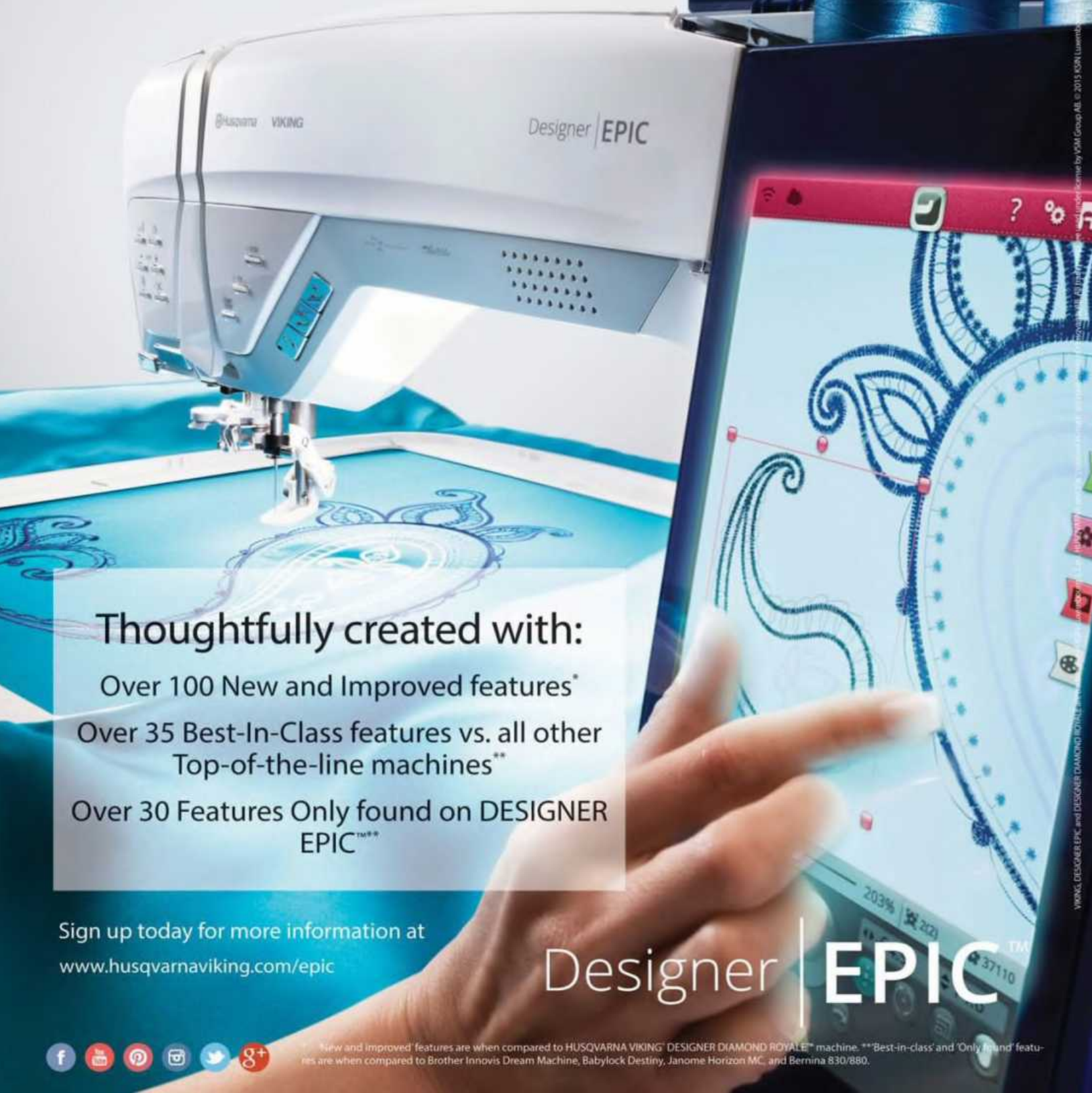
the haberdashery



Floral fancy

Stuart chose this classic Big Blooms in Duck Egg print by Kaffe Fassett for FreeSpirit, priced £13 per metre, www.trixielixie.co.uk, 07432 408509.

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Deborah Simms

“What a year! I think it warrants a pat on the back!”

It's at this time of the year that most of us become reflective about the past 12 months, thinking over our achievements. For the sewing community this can mean retrospection at favourite items to the biggest stitching fails! I try to avoid too much looking back, as I like moving forward. But in the case of 2015, I think it warrants a bit of a pat on the back. What a year!

I can't believe that the *Sewing Bee* aired this year, it feels like such a long time ago now. It is one of the most exciting, interesting and extraordinary achievements of my life and I would encourage anyone to give it a go. It has brought so many wonderful opportunities, the chance to try on a variety of different hats, and enjoy meeting more wonderful sewists.

The opportunity to teach has been my favourite thing to come from the *Sewing Bee*. I love encouraging disheartened or newbie sewers, or just to have a chat with someone who loves this craft as much as I do. The inspiration that comes from these lovely people is amazing. I want to help encourage that individuality, and am continually impressed with the unique ideas of others! I can't wait to continue my teaching next year.

My second great achievement of the year (not in order) is the birth of my beautiful daughter. I've now been taking care of her for two months and am beginning to settle into my new life. I am very excited about Evelyn's first Christmas, and plan to make her a special red tartan dress, something very traditionally festive.

Going into 2016, I will be adapting to this lifestyle change, and with this the change in my sewing habits. In that vein, I have begun #sewspeedy in order to document my five minute bursts of sewing. How much can you achieve in such short periods? Recently my husband gave me a break and took our daughter out for the afternoon. He was away for two and a half hours and I managed to complete a sweater knit adapted Coco.



Deborah Simms on her achievements and plans for 2016



Make your own Coco, £12.50,
www.tillyandthebuttons.com

I kept imagining that they would appear at the door any moment, and therefore managed my time in five minute chunks. 'I'll just do this hem' and so forth. I am confident that by splitting up my sewing into small tasks, I will still be able to achieve my sewing goals, and achieve a mini win every day.

It is a time of change in my life, but it is one that I intend to enjoy. Sadly this is my last column for now, as I want to spend as much time as possible with my family. But don't worry, I plan to keep up the momentum that I have built in the past year and I will stay true to myself; sometimes I just need a little sewing time, and that's ok. I hope you're having a wonderful festive season, and that you have a fantastic New Year!



Quick-fire round

This year I'll be spending Christmas...

At home for the first time

Top Christmas tradition... **Presents under the real Christmas tree**

I'll be spending Boxing Day...

Watching festive films, then karaoke with the family

My top last-minute gift idea...

Simple zip purses, great for fabric scraps!

For more from Deborah, follow her blog at www.dfabricate.blogspot.co.uk

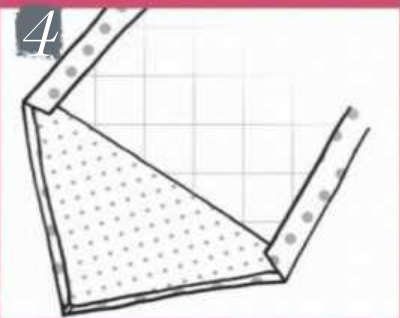
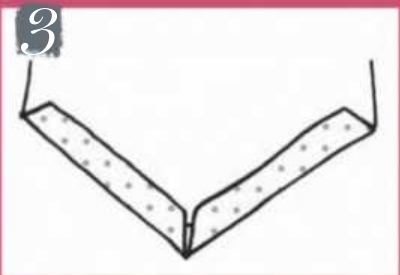
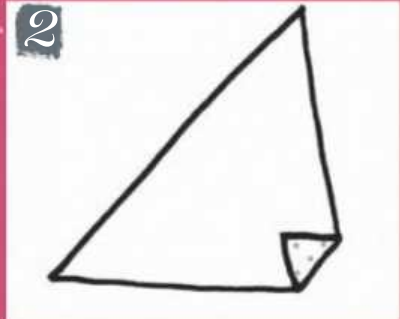
Ideal man make **Liberty tie**

This easy accessory is a great gift for the man in your life

Essentials

- Cotton lawn, 75cm square
- Lightweight cotton lining, 25cm x 30cm
- Lightweight fusible interfacing, 75cm square
- Coordinating thread

Making a man's tie was one of the challenges on the final of *The Great British Sewing Bee* series two, however this step-by-step tutorial from The Makery's Kate Smith makes stitching this smart accessory a doddle. It's the ideal handmade present for that tricky to buy for father, brother or partner, so pick a fabric he'll love in either cotton or silk, and get practising your hand stitching.



stitch a tie

- 1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Trace all the pattern pieces and cut them out. Lay cotton lawn fabric out in front of you and press. Place the upper pattern pieces on the bias grain (45° to the selvedge), pin and cut out. Iron lightweight interfacing onto the back of the tie upper pieces, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- 2 Join the three upper pieces, right sides together. Pin in place, matching the notches and sew together with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the ends of the seams that poke out at each side, so they are flush with the edges [1]. Open out and press the seams flat.
- 3 Press lightweight cotton fabric, then lay the lining pattern pieces on top, on the bias. Cut out. Fold up the points of each lining piece by 1cm towards the wrong side [2]. Fold in the two sides by 1cm to mitre [3]. Pin in place and press.
- 4 Repeat these folds on the two ends of the upper fabric, and pin and iron as before. At both ends, use ladder stitch to hand sew the two edges of the hem together where they meet at the point, to ensure it is crisp.

- 5 Lay out the upper fabric, wrong side up. Position the larger lining triangle, right side up, on the point of the larger end of the tie, leaving a margin of 2mm from the end. Ladder stitch the lining in place along the bottom edge V shape. Repeat with the smaller triangle at the other end of the tie.

- 6 Turn both long edges of the tie in by 1cm, towards the wrong side, and press [4]. Fold both of these edges in towards the middle of the tie so that they meet in the centre. Hand sew the two sides together using ladder stitch, all the way down the length of the tie.

ladder stitch

USE IT TO JOIN TWO PIECES OF FABRIC TOGETHER

- 1 Thread a needle and knot the end. Bring the needle up through the fabric on one side, where you'd like your stitching to begin.
- 2 At the same point on the other side of the gap to be closed, push the needle in and then out again, in the direction of stitching.
- 3 Keep working your way along the fabric, from one side to the other.

On the bias

The bias of a woven fabric runs diagonal to the grain. If you try to stretch it, you'll notice it has quite a lot of give in it. Fabric cut this way hangs more softly.



the haberdashery



Paisley print

Liberty Tana Lawn is a perfect lightweight cotton for this project. Try Felix and Isabelle D, priced £14 per metre. www.alicecaroline.co.uk



Stitch it tonight!

bucket bag

Sew up the perfect tote for all your essentials

This brightly coloured bag by Corinne Bradd is just the thing for packing up all your must-haves for the festive holiday. Easy to stitch and with a drawstring to close, it will look stylish and come in handy. It could even double up as a sack filled with presents under the tree!

Essentials

- Striped fabric, 120cm
- 2oz quilt wadding, 50cm
- 6mm wide cord, 200cm
- 4cm wide webbing, 100cm (optional)

Dimensions

40cm x 41cm

Blazer, £24.99, H&M, top from a selection at Uniglo, shoes, £19.99, New Look

stitch a bag

1 Cut a 85cm square from striped fabric and crease in half across the stripes. Trim a 42cm x 85cm piece of wadding and lay on one half of the wrong side of the fabric so one edge lies along the crease. Cut a 90cm length of cord and place along the crease.

2 Fold the other half of the fabric over the crease line, to cover the cord and wadding. Pin the layers together under the ridge made by the cord before pinning the layers together at regular intervals.

3 Use a zipper foot to sew directly along the side of the cord to make a piped top edge. Quilt the rest of the fabric along the stripes every 5cm to 7cm to hold the layers together and provide structure. Trim the edges of the fabric square if necessary and zig zag stitch along them.

4 Cut eight 5cm x 8cm rectangles from striped fabric. Fold each one in half lengthways, right sides together, and sew along the long edge to make a tube. Turn each one out and press so the seam sits in the centre. Fold in 5mm on each raw edge and topstitch 2mm from the fold.

5 Pin the flattened tubes to the bag, 3cm down from the piped top edge in a landscape position, at regular intervals, leaving a 1cm back seam allowance at either end of the quilted fabric. Topstitch them to the bag, on the long edge of each, to make cord channels.

6 Fold the quilted fabric in half widthways, right sides together, and sew up the back seam with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the ends of the piping and cover with a short length of bias binding or scrap of fabric slip stitched over the raw ends.

7 Cut two 23cm squares from striped fabric for the bottom. Lay one piece face down followed by a piece of wadding the same size, with the second fabric square on top, right side up. Pin them together and zig zag stitch around all four edges.

8 Find the centre of two opposite sides of the square and mark them with a pin. Match one mark to the back seam of the bag and sew the edge of the square to the bottom, stopping 1cm from either end. Find the centre of the front and stitch the opposite side of the square to this in the same way. The two remaining sides of the square can now be sewn to the rest of the quilted panel.

9 Cut a 10cm x 100cm strip of striped print. Fold in 1cm on the short edges and tack. Fold in 1cm on each long edge and crease. Bring the long folded edges together and pin to make a 4cm wide strap. Iron fusible webbing inside the folded fabric to strengthen it, if required. Topstitch along both long sides, 2mm from the edge.

10 Pin to either side of the bag, 4cm below the cord channels. Topstitch the bottom 4cm square of strap end to the bag, closing up the tacked ends as you go and reinforcing with a cross shape in the centre. Remove the tacking stitches.

11 Create two small tabs from 5cm x 10cm rectangles, folded in half, right sides together and stitched down each side. Turn them out, fold in 5mm along the top edge and slip the ends of the remaining cord into each one. Topstitch them closed over the cord. Thread the cord through the channels at the top to finish.

the haberdashery



Stripey fabric

From the Kabloom collection from Camelot Fabrics, this print comes in two punchy colourways! Priced £14 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com





Sew loves...

Introducing Wren, a feminine, a wrap style knit dress that definitely caught the *Sew* team's eyes! Perfect for creating a glamorous silhouette that can be styled up or down, it's the ultimate go-to dress. Version 1 is a sleeveless style with a gathered neckband and fitted skirt, perfect for the festive period, while version 2 features sleeves and sweet A-line skirt for staying stylish this holiday season!

Make in
a black silk
jersey for
the perfect
LBD



iNDIE pattern news

*The new releases from
these top independents*

Wren, £12,
www.sewbox.co.uk,
01787 269366.

LATEST PATTERN!

Feast your eyes on Orla, the latest pattern from Tilly and the Buttons; a stylish semi-fitted shift top with a deceptively simple design. Classic at first glance, a closer peek reveals a wealth of details to develop your sewing repertoire, including curved French darts, flattering dipped hem, and optional snowdrop collar. Wear over skinny jeans or leggings for everyday, or with slim-fit trousers for the office.

All patterns
include photo
steps

Orla, £12.50,
www.tillyandthebuttons.com



New collaboration

We love a good collaboration at *Sew* HQ, so when we heard The Maker's Atelier had joined forces with Cloth House to create the perfect modern kimono, we were super excited! The result is a modern shape created to work beautifully with Cloth House's Japanese kimono crêpe fabric. Available as a limited edition Making Kit, containing everything you need, including the pattern, fabric, coordinating trims and matching sewing thread, get it on your Christmas wish-list pronto!

The Modern Kimono Kit, £90,
www.themakersatelier.co.uk,
01273 673724.

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Following their successful expansion into paper patterns, Liesl + Co has launched two new ones. These feminine dresses are some of the most popular designs from the digital pattern collection, and are ideal when treating yourself to a cappuccino or festive trip to the movies! The Cinema Dress is relaxed, comfortable, and easy to wear, while the Cappuccino Dress + Tunic features a flattering V-neck and crossover neckband. Which will you stitch first?

Cinema Dress and Cappuccino
Dress + Tunic, £13.50 each,
www.backstitch.co.uk



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MACHINE *shopping*

Make light work of quilting with these specialist models

Quilts make fantastic heirloom gifts, and if you're planning to stitch them regularly, purchasing a model designed for the job may be a worthwhile investment. Look for machines with an extra large sewing space, adjustable presser foot pressure and a knee lifter. Additional accessories are often also included such as a walking foot for consistent, even stitching. Add one to your Christmas list before it's too late!

Be a patchwork pro!



For more machine reviews, see www.sewmag.co.uk

MUST-HAVE MACHINES



£999*

BROTHER INNOV-IS 1800Q

Add your own creative flair to your sewing and quilting projects with the Innov-is 1800Q. There are 232 built-in stitches, including 133 decorative and five fonts, all selectable at the touch sensor keypad. My Custom Stitch lets you design your own creative stitches and save them to memory. The Square Feed Drive System provides strong, smooth feed and the ICAPS fabric sensor system automatically adjusts pressure to ensure even stitch quality. An advanced needle threading system, knee lift, and a presser foot up/down button make stitching hassle free.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Large LCD screen
- ✓ Knee lift
- ✓ Touch sensor keypad
- ✓ Square feed drive system
- ✓ Advanced needle threading

www.brothersewing.co.uk, 0333 777 4444.



£1,895

BERNINA 550QE

The sleek Bernina 550 Quilter's Edition offers 434 stitches with a maximum speed of 900 stitches per minute. There are 11 needle positions for ultimate sewing precision and the included walking foot is ideal for even feeding. Get creative by making and saving stitch combinations in the long and short term memory. Take advantage of the adjustable presser foot pressure, built-in needle threader, needle stop up/down and slide speed control. The bobbin can be wound while sewing/embroidering and the 550QE can be connected to the PC through the USB interface.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 434 stitches
- ✓ Knee lifter
- ✓ Drop feed
- ✓ Walking foot
- ✓ Seven year warranty

www.bernina.com



£899*
plus free quilting kit

JANOME ATELIER 5

This computerised model from Janome is ideal for all your home sewing projects. It is so versatile that there are three option kits available, one for quilting, one for home furnishings and a third for fashion. It's ideal for big projects, with a total arm length of 31cm, however it is equally suited to precision sewing, offering 91 needle positions. It has a superior feeding system and an easy change needle plate. The sky's the limit with 170 built-in stitches, including 10 styles of automatic one-step buttonholes and five times stitch elongation.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Fully computerised
- ✓ 170 built-in stitches
- ✓ Memory facility
- ✓ Auto needle threader
- ✓ Easy set bobbin

www.janome.co.uk, 0161 666 6011.

*Usual price £1299. Offer valid for limited time only.

*Usual price £999, quilting kit £169. Offer valid for limited time only.

My machine and I...



Sew Over It's Lisa Comfort shares her early machine memories

"I still remember the day I got my very first sewing machine when I was 11. It was a second-hand Bernina I got for my birthday and is still one

of the best presents I've ever had.

Now I am in love with my Janome CXL-301 (nicknamed Betty!). It's a digital model and I love it so much that we use them in all of our classes at Sew Over It. Together Betty and I have made about fifteen Betty Dresses and we have just finished working on some pretty capes for my bridesmaids to wear at my wedding!"

For more from Lisa, visit www.sewoverit.co.uk



MODEL *of the* MONTH

SINGER 8500Q

This brand-new model from Singer is a must-have for quilting enthusiasts. It has a huge 215 built-in sewing stitches, including 17 quilting, nine essential and 176 decorative. There are also six one-step buttonholes, plus an endless buttonhole with no size limitations. You can easily manage quilts and other oversized projects with the extra-large sewing space and the knee lifter allows for hands-free raising and lowering of the presser foot. Another handy feature for quilters is the extra high presser foot lifter, offering 6mm more clearance for placing multiple layers or bulky fabrics under the presser foot. The speed can be controlled by a slider at the front of the machine and the drop in bobbin means there's no need to pull up the thread manually. The 8500Q also offers a Swiftsmart threading system and there are six LED lights to help you see your work more easily.



£829



HUSQVARNA VIKING OPAL 690Q

The Opal 690Q from Husqvarna Viking is a fully computerised model which offers extra-efficient features. The exclusive sewing advisor optimises stitching with automatic settings, while the sensor system technology automatically senses and adjusts as you sew any thickness of fabric for perfect feeding. There's an extra-large sewing surface and long arm and there are 208 stitches included for endless creative opportunities. Other innovative capabilities include a start/stop button, automatic thread cutter and touch screen.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Fully computerised
- ✓ Exclusive sensor system
- ✓ Touch screen
- ✓ Generous sewing space
- ✓ Automatic thread cutter

www.husqvarnaviking.com

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ 215 built-in stitches
- ✓ 17 quilting stitches
- ✓ Automatic thread cutter
- ✓ Knee lifter
- ✓ Extra-large sewing space

PRICE: £700

www.singerco.co.uk,
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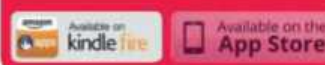
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Lorraine Luximon, Sew Editor

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- New year, new skill in 60 minutes
- Make a dress in a day!
- Behind the scenes of Angels the costumiers!
- Expert advice and tips

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BRITISH SEWING AWARDS

EXPERT JUDGES

May Martin: judging the Best Haberdashery Brand

This year *The Great British Sewing Bee* judge and Sew columnist May Martin will be taking to our prestigious panel for a second year and will be nominating the Best Haberdashery Brand.



Matt Chapple: judging the Best Cutting Tool Brand

We're pleased to be welcoming *The Great British Sewing Bee* series three winner, Matt Chapple to the team to judge new category Best Cutting Tool Brand to recognise which product range is a cut above when it comes to precision and ease of use!

VOTE TODAY!

GIVE YOUR FAVOURITE STITCHING BRANDS, PERSONALITIES AND HABERDASHERS THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE IN THE BRITISH SEWING AWARDS AND YOU COULD WIN GOODIES – **WORTH £500!**

Thank you for all your nominations for the British Sewing Awards 2015. You've let us know your best-loved sewing products, brands and personalities and now it's time to cast your final votes. So show your support for your favourites

by simply voting on the form overleaf or by visiting www.sewmag.co.uk/awards. Not only will you get to have your say, but you will also be in with the chance of winning a bumper prize worth more than £500. So get voting!

THREE EASY STEPS TO VOTE...

1

TICK THE BOXES ON THE VOTING FORM OVERLEAF FOR EACH CATEGORY



2

COMPLETE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS



3

SEND IT TO US AT

Marketing Department,
British Sewing Awards 2015,
21-23 Phoenix Court,
Hawkins Road,
Colchester, Essex,
CO2 8JY

Or go online

Visit www.sewmag.co.uk/awards

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SEWING BRANDS!

Worth
£500!



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Vote overleaf

Send your completed form to:

**Marketing Department,
British Sewing Awards, 21-23
Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road,
Colchester, Essex, C02 8JY.**

Voting form

PRODUCTS:

Best thread brand

- ☐ Aurifil
- ☐ Coats
- ☐ DMC
- ☐ Gütermann
- ☐ Madeira
- ☐ Mettler
- ☐ Other.....

Best fabric brand

- ☐ Art Gallery Fabrics
- ☐ Liberty
- ☐ Makower UK
- ☐ Michael Miller
- ☐ Moda
- ☐ Other.....

Most innovative product

- ☐ Aurifil AuriFloss
- ☐ Brother Innov-is V7
- ☐ Brother ScanNCut
- ☐ Clover Jumbo Wonder Clips
- ☐ Fiskars Combo Rotary Cutter and Ruler
- ☐ Janome Memory Craft 1500
- ☐ Multipom
- ☐ Other.....

SEWING MACHINES:

Best entry level sewing machine brand

- ☐ Bernina
- ☐ Brother
- ☐ Janome
- ☐ Singer
- ☐ Toyota
- ☐ Other.....

Best quilting sewing machine brand

- ☐ Brother
- ☐ Bernina
- ☐ Janome
- ☐ Pfaff
- ☐ Singer
- ☐ Other.....

Best embroidery sewing machine brand

- ☐ Brother
- ☐ Husqvarna Viking
- ☐ Janome
- ☐ Bernina
- ☐ Singer
- ☐ Other.....

Most desirable sewing machine

- ☐ Brother Innov-is V7
- ☐ Brother Innov-is XV
- ☐ Janome DKS100
- ☐ Janome DXL603
- ☐ Janome Memory Craft 15000 v2
- ☐ Other.....

ONLINE:

Best sewing blog

- ☐ Colette
- ☐ Fabric Godmother
- ☐ Guthrie & Ghani
- ☐ Handmade Jane

- ☐ Minerva Crafts
- ☐ Sew What?
- ☐ So Sew Easy
- ☐ Tilly and the Buttons
- ☐ Other.....

Best online retailer

- ☐ Backstitch
- ☐ Cotton Patch
- ☐ Fabric Godmother
- ☐ Minerva Crafts
- ☐ Plush Addict
- ☐ Other.....

RETAILERS:

Best UK chain store

- ☐ Abakhan
- ☐ Fabric Land
- ☐ Hobbycraft
- ☐ John Lewis
- ☐ Remnant Kings
- ☐ Other.....

Best independent haberdashery shop

- ☐ Moores of Coleraine, Coleraine
- ☐ The Spinning Wheel, Belfast
- ☐ Windmill Fabrics, Saintfield
- ☐ Other.....

MIDLANDS

- ☐ Guthrie & Ghani, Birmingham
- ☐ Karen Delahunty Sewing and Knitting Centre, Kenilworth
- ☐ Sew Me Something, Stratford-upon-Avon
- ☐ The Sewing Café, Hinckley
- ☐ Other.....

NORTH OF ENGLAND

- ☐ From Rags to Stitches, Doncaster
- ☐ Just Sew, Penrith
- ☐ Liberty Bell, Chester
- ☐ Minerva Crafts, Lancashire
- ☐ Waltons Fabrics, Barnsley
- ☐ Other.....

SCOTLAND

- ☐ Mandors Fabric Store, Glasgow
- ☐ The Peacock and the Tortoise, Perth
- ☐ Purely Patchwork, Linlithgow
- ☐ Sew Materialistic, Ayr
- ☐ Other.....

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

- ☐ Backstitch, Cambridge
- ☐ Material Needs, Burnham-on-Sea
- ☐ Needlecraft, Hemel Hempstead
- ☐ Sew Creative, Petersfield
- ☐ The Sewing Studio, Redruth
- ☐ The Village Haberdashery, London
- ☐ Other.....

WALES

- ☐ Aberdasher, Aberystwyth
- ☐ All Sewn Up, Swansea
- ☐ Calico Kate, Lampeter
- ☐ Lee Mills Fabrics, Swansea
- ☐ Sew Lovely, Penarth
- ☐ The Bon Marche, Porthcawl
- ☐ Other.....

Best pattern house

- ☐ Burda
- ☐ Butterick
- ☐ By Hand London
- ☐ Colette Patterns
- ☐ Sew Me Something
- ☐ Simplicity
- ☐ Vogue
- ☐ Other.....

Best for customer service

- ☐ Calico Kate
- ☐ John Lewis
- ☐ Mandors Fabric Store
- ☐ Remnant Kings
- ☐ Sew Me Something
- ☐ Other.....

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES:

Favourite sewing personality

- ☐ Debbie Shore
- ☐ Jennie Rayment
- ☐ Kirstie Allsopp
- ☐ May Martin
- ☐ Patrick Grant
- ☐ Tilly Walnes
- ☐ Other.....

Best sewing book 2015

- ☐ *Half Yard Christmas* by Debbie Shore (Search Press)
- ☐ *May Martin's Sewing Bible* by May Martin (HarperCollins)

- ☐ *Sew Over It Vintage* by Lisa Comfort (Ebury Press)
- ☐ *The Great British Sewing Bee: Fashion with Fabric* by Claire-Louise Hardie (Quadrille Publishing)
- ☐ Other.....

Best for sewing workshops/courses

- ☐ Backstitch
- ☐ Craftsy
- ☐ Plain Stitch
- ☐ Sew Creative
- ☐ Sew Me Something
- ☐ Other.....

Best exhibition/event experience 2015

- ☐ Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty, V&A Museum, London
- ☐ The Festival of Quilts, NEC, Birmingham
- ☐ The Knitting & Stitching Show, Harrogate
- ☐ The Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace, London
- ☐ Quilts UK, Malvern
- ☐ Sewing For Pleasure, NEC, Birmingham
- ☐ Other.....

Please complete your details in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title:Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Contact number:

Email:

Date of Birth: DD/MM/YY...../...../.....

Signature:Date:...../...../.....

CLOSING DATE: 20th DECEMBER 2015 FOR VOTES

Send your completed voting form to:

Marketing Department, British Sewing Awards, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, C02 8JY.

Terms & conditions of entry and data protection

All entries must be received by 20/12/15. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies & their families. One entry per household. The prize will be given to the first entrant drawn at random. Entrants must be made at www.sewmag.co.uk/awards or on the coupon provided (no purchase necessary). Photocopies are NOT accepted. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by the rules will be disqualified. No responsibility for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post, proof of posting is not proof of delivery. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winner's name and county will be available by sending an SAE marked British Sewing Awards 2015 to Marketing Department, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, C02 8JY.

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WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Wrap up your festive stitching by booking a seasonal class

workshop of the month

SEW A COUTURE ACCESSORY

On this three-day course you will be walked through the techniques required to make your own leather handbag, from the design process to pattern cutting and construction. The perfect treat for you or a loved one this Christmas! Create any style you wish, simply bring a selection of images with you as inspiration for drawing a design for your own unique accessory. On the second day, you will cut and sample your bag, adjusting the pattern if required, before cutting your materials, and assembling your bag in the final session. It's recommended you already have some sewing experience and you will have the opportunity to work with domestic or industrial machines, depending on the material you choose. You will leave with plenty of skills to use for future projects. The course is priced £330, and a materials package can be purchased for an extra £35 if desired. All sessions run in unison, so a selection of dates are available.



LEATHER HANDBAG MAKING

Rebecca-Jane, Surrey

Price: **£330**

Why book?

- ✓ Learn to sew with leather
- ✓ Create a couture accessory

To book, visit www.rebecca-jane.com

THREE MORE GREAT CLASSES



CREATE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Make Do & Mend, Essex

Get stitching those last minute Christmas gifts over three sessions at Make Do & Mend. Throughout the day on 13th December, you will have the opportunity to join like-minded stitchers to make either a Christmas apron, bunting, stocking, gift bag or cushion cover. Just bring your favourite festive fabrics and you'll be taught how. Priced just £15 per hour and a half class, you can book onto one or all three, and there will also be tea and mince pies to hand. No experience is needed! Secure your place at www.makedomend.com



SEW YOUR OWN WIGGLE DRESS

Ministry of Craft, Manchester

Flatter your curves by stitching up a sassy wiggle dress in this two-day workshop at Ministry of Craft. Inspired by Joan from hit TV series Mad Men, you can choose to make either a sleeveless shift or a flattering mid-length sleeve style. You'll learn to use a pattern block, sew double point darts, insert sleeves or add facings, and put in an invisible zip. Priced £89, you'll need to bring along your own fabric, thread and zip. The next course starts on 5th December. Find out more at www.ministryofcraft.co.uk



CHRISTMAS FUN OPEN SESSIONS

Owl and Sewing Cat, East Sussex

Need some help creating your festive makes? Join one of Owl and Sewing Cat's open sessions in Eastbourne and stitch up anything from a Christmas stocking, apron and bunting to table runners, decorations and other present ideas to get you inspired! Bring your own fabrics and materials to make your projects unique. Each three-hour session is priced £20 and dates available include 28th November, 12th and 19th December. Book now to avoid disappointment at www.owlandsewingcat.com

✓ just tick the boxes!

To enter our giveaways, just tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry to us no later than 01.01.2016. Mark your envelope: **Sew December Giveaways**, PO Box 443, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8WG.

- ☐ CHINELO BALLY ☐ MILLIE MOON
☐ IVY PRESS ☐ STASH ☐ MAKE IT
☐ SEWING BEE ☐ SEWBOX

What made you buy this month's Sew?

- ☐ FREE New Look pattern
☐ I subscribe
☐ Other

What's your favourite project this issue?

- ☐ Bucket bag
☐ Christmas wreath & decs
☐ Other

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Daytime phone.....

Mobile.....

Email.....

Date of birth.....

Only one entry per household please.

This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person. The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet. Entries must be on the coupon provided. It cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. CLOSING DATE 01.01.2016. Winners will be notified after the cover dated month, a list of winners will be available in writing on request from Rachel Tudor, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

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December Bumper giveaways!

Enter now for your chance to win these amazing prizes!



5 to win!

Chinelo Bally book

Five lucky winners will receive a copy of Chinelo's first book *Freehand Fashion* (£20, Pavilion). Based on a traditional Nigerian technique, Chinelo has developed her own freehand cutting method. The emphasis is on the individual's own body measurements, and getting the perfect fit. The book covers everything from tops, skirts and day dresses to stunning eveningwear. To enter, tick the 'CHINELO BALLY' box. Visit www.pavilionbooks.com for stockists and a full range of titles.

Millie Moon children's patterns

We have the entire range of 10 Anna Vickery's sewing patterns for children's clothing, exclusive to Millie Moon, for one lucky reader to win! The latest three patterns are multi-sized and easy to follow, and two of the styles go up to an age 12. Try your hand at unisex pyjama bottoms, a boy's waistcoat or even a sweet tunic dress. Tick the 'MILLIE MOON' box to enter. Visit the new-look website at www.milliemoonshop.co.uk or call 01373 464650.



Patchwork and crochet books

5 sets to win!

We have five copies of *A Block a Day* by Lucinda Ganderton (£19.99) and *A Square a Day* by Tracey Lord (£19.99) from Ivy Press, to give away. Both books are easy to use and provide tonnes of inspirational patterns for you to try. Tick the 'IVY PRESS' box to enter. Visit www.ivypress.co.uk for all their other great titles.



3
to win!



Stitchy stash booster

We have three bundles, worth over £80 each, for the stitching enthusiast. Each set contains ribbons, embroidery scissors, needles and much more! To enter, tick the **'STASH'** box. For stockists, email groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk, clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk or gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk, or call 01453 883581.



10
pairs to win!

Make It and Knit & Stitch It show tickets

This year, for the first time, the two shows are taking place over two days from the 26th-27th February 2016, in Five, Farnborough,

with extended opening hours, so there's plenty of time to experience all the shows have to offer, including workshops and demonstrations. To enter, tick the **'MAKE IT'** box. Visit www.make-it.org.uk for tickets and more information.

knit & stitch it 16
26th - 27th February 2016
FIVE, Farnborough

make it
26th - 27th February 2016
FIVE, Farnborough

40
to win!

Sewing Bee books

We have a whopping 40 sets of *The Great British Sewing Bee*:

Sew Your Own Wardrobe by Tessa Eveleigh (£20, Quadrille) and *The Great British Sewing Bee: Fashion with Fabric* by Claire-Louise Hardie (£25, Quadrille) up for grabs. Create garments from the popular show, and get lots of tips and tricks for your dressmaking projects. To enter, tick the **'SEWING BEE'** box. Visit www.quadrille.co.uk for a full list of titles.



Turn to page 71 for our fantastic Janome embroidery machine competition!



more than
£4,000
worth of prizes!



Appleton dress

Meet the Appleton Dress from Cashmerette, your new wardrobe staple! This classic wrap style is designed to play up your curves with a crossover front, a built-in waist tie, and a deep V-neck. We have two to give away from Sewbox, plus all the essentials you'll need to make it, including black jersey fabric and matching Gutermann thread. To enter, tick the **'SEWBOX'** box. Visit UK stockist www.sewbox.co.uk to see the full range of products.



Enter online at www.sewmag.co.uk



SUCCESS!

What a day! Here are some of our highlights from Sew Saturday 2015

Earlier this year we announced the launch of Sew Saturday, a new campaign specifically aimed to raise awareness and customer support for bricks and mortar sewing and fabric shops around the UK. The event took place on 17th October, with shops hosting in-store events to celebrate, including demonstrations, workshops, competitions, tea and cake, discounts and more, all to share the stitchy love!

Over 200 stores took part, with leading names such as *Sewing Bee* judge May Martin, plus Lauren Guthrie, Stuart Hillard, Jenniffer Taylor, Heather Jacks and other stars out in force to support the campaign. We loved seeing all the special celebrations and merriment! Here are some of our favourites.



LAUREN'S DAD
WAS ON TEA
MAKING DUTIES



"Our Sew Saturday event was a great success! We had lots of lovely customers come along and join in our workshops and demonstrations. It was great to get people together to have fun stitching!"

Lauren Guthrie, Guthrie & Ghani

THE SEW TEAM

The *Sew* team joined our local haberdashery, the family run Franklins in Colchester, for a day of Aly Owl make & takes, competitions, goodie bags, a special Sew Saturday cake and live music from singing duo, Hat Check Honeys. It was great to see so many readers enjoying the event!



HAPPY ALY
OWL MAKERS



TUTOR
PAT LUCKING



"Our aim was to get stitchers back in their local bricks and mortar stores – and we think we achieved just that! A definite highlight was seeing the social media takeover of event mascot, Aly owl!"

Lorraine Luximon, Sew Editor



"For Sew Saturday, I spent the day at the Haberdashery Boutique in Fareham, Hampshire. The constant buzz of talk, the till and laughter provided a great background to my reversible bag workshop. The different fabrics the ladies chose resulted in a stunning collection!"

Wendy Gardiner, sewing personality

"Sew Busy in Fleet was a hive of activity on Sew Saturday. It was such a pleasure meeting and exchanging tips of the trade with so many enthusiastic stitchers!"

May Martin, Sewing Bee judge



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We had so much fun we want to do it all again! The date for your diaries is Saturday 15th Oct 2016. If you're a retailer who would like to register your interest, email

saturday@sewmag.co.uk



"I ran one of the six workshops and events that were held at Inkberrow Design Centre to celebrate Sew Saturday. It really was a hub of sewing and fabric fun. The people who attended my workshop were a complete pleasure and everyone walked away with made to measure outfits. Viva #sewingrevolution!"

Jenniffer Taylor,
www.jennifertaylor.co.uk



"I had a great day! The Faff Room was buzzing with a real party atmosphere, as people joined in throughout the day with sewing projects. Stuffed toys, tote bags, skirts and tops. The support from everyone was terrific, and it brought out the occasional sewers as well as the die hard addicts! Let's make it an annual event!"

Heather Jacks, Sewing Bee series two winner

MEET YOUR SEW SATURDAY AMBASSADORS 2016

We're pleased to have May Martin, Lauren Guthrie and Stuart Hillard back on board, and new for 2016 is Sewing Bee winner, Matt Chapple!



MAY MARTIN

"The creative process feeds my soul and there is nothing quite like getting together with a group of like-minded enthusiasts to share the sheer joy of sewing. We loved Sew Saturday. Come and take part in the fun next year by visiting your local fabric shop"



LAUREN GUTHRIE

"Fabric shops are all about the customer experience. Having a scheduled event that has national support, like Sew Saturday, is a great way to create a buzz and raise awareness of the value these stores bring to the stitching community"



MATT CHAPPLE

"What do I love about my local haberdasheries? Being able to touch the fabric, the sewing chatter that goes with a purchase, the ability to grab those last minute materials...the list goes on! Support your local haberdashery, support Sew Saturday!"



STUART HILLARD

"I'm proud to be an ambassador for Sew Saturday and to give a shout out to all the fabric shops, sewing cafés and haberdashers throughout the UK! You do an amazing job encouraging a nation to find joy in sewing, and I applaud you!"

NEXT MONTH...

Did you enter our retailer competition? Next month we will be announcing the winners in the following categories; Best Window Display, Best In Store Competition/Workshop and Best Overall Sew Saturday Event. Stay tuned to see how you or your local store fared!

Sew Saturday mascot

Aly owl



Have a hoot making a sweet pincushion

Our sewing room friend, Aly owl was a popular character at Sew Saturday events, and now everyone can make this cute critter! The perfect scrap buster, using less than a fat quarter of fabric plus some felt, stuffing and a few buttons, one can be made in less than an hour!

Essentials

- Main fabric, 20cm
- Contrast fabric, 8cm x 20cm
- Coordinating thread
- Buttons, two
- Toy filling
- Felt, scrap

Dimensions

7cm x 8cm

stitch an owl pincushion

1 Using the templates provided on p102, cut a body from a main fabric and a tummy from contrasting cotton. With right sides facing, pin and stitch the tummy to one straight edge of the body, then join the other side to make a cone [1]. Turn right side out.

2 With a double strand of coordinating sewing thread, work a line of small running stitches around the open edge. Stuff with toy filling, then pull up the thread to close the gap [2]. Fasten securely.

3 Ease the filling away from the point at the top and fold it over to the centre of the tummy. Catch down with a few stitches, then sew on two round buttons for eyes. Cut a pair of feet from felt and attach these to the base [3].

the haberdashery



Liberty print

We made our owls super luxe with Liberty's Bloomsbury Collection, Garnett, in colourway C, priced £3.50 per quarter metre, www.sewbox.co.uk





Shop local!

After the resounding success of **Sew Saturday**, here at Sew we think there is nothing better than shopping at our local fabric and habby store.
So, why not pay one of these great stores a visit today!

PLUS Coming soon details for **Sew Saturday 2016** ... stay tuned!

In association with **Simplicity**

BERNINA **Husqvarna** **JANOME** **JUKI** **PFAFF** **brother** **SINGER**
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Created through my passion for fabric and homemaking, and wanting to share that passion through workshops, Sew Creative has already generated amazing customer support. The shop has a real buzz having already held a local sewing bee challenge, being nominated for two British Sewing Awards and launched a customer loyalty scheme." **Jo Watts, Sew Creative**

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THE ULTIMATE FESTIVE GIFT GUIDE

10 of the best kits, easy projects and stitchy buys for those last minute presents

With Christmas just around the corner, we know there's a lot to prepare. Don't panic if you have a few final gifts to make, we've got just the thing!

1 Cross stitch perfection

THESE SWEET LITTLE CROSS STITCH KITS CAN BE STITCHED UP QUICKLY IN A VARIETY OF SEASONAL DESIGNS. FILL THEM WITH CHOCOLATES OR A MINI BOTTLE OF THEIR FAVOURITE TIPPABLE. PRICED £6.80 EACH, VISIT WWW.STITCHER.CO.UK OR CALL 0161 464 7310 FOR DETAILS.



2 Hello, dolly

Say hello to Lou Lou, the first of a new collection of boudoir dolls from the team at Sew La Di Da Vintage. She would make a fabulous gift for doll lovers of all ages in her classic '20s style, with lots of opportunity for customisation! Priced £49.99, visit www.thedollcollective.co.uk for more information.



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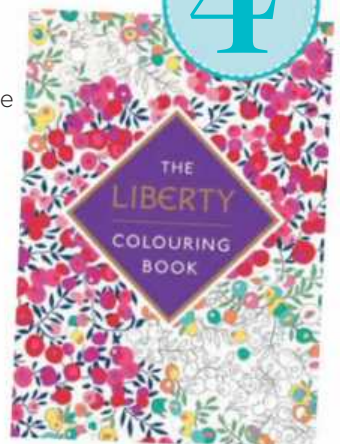
Bag it up

STITCH UP A SUPER HANDY TOTE BAG WITH THIS KIT FROM LEICESTERSHIRE CRAFT CENTRE. MAKE IT FROM THE PRETTY FAT QUARTERS PROVIDED, OR USE THE RECIPIENT'S FAVOURITE COLOURS. IT'S ALSO A GREAT (AND ROOMY) ALTERNATIVE TO A STOCKING. PRICED £12, VISIT WWW.LEICESTERSHIRECRAFTCENTRE.CO.UK FOR THE FULL RANGE.



Liberty love

The Liberty Colouring Book, (£9.99, Penguin) is the perfect gift for a Liberty obsessed loved one, with over 50 pages of the iconic store's prints to colour at their leisure. It'll keep them busy all Christmas! Visit www.liberty.co.uk for more information.



3

4

Learn to sew suitcase

Great for kids, this suitcase contains everything needed to learn how to sew, and complete some great first projects. Make three cuddly elephants, a plush cat and kitten, a drawstring bag, a needle case and pincushion plus fabric corsage. Priced £19.95, find it in the New Range section at www.buttonbag.co.uk



5 PERFECT FOR ANY BEGINNER

6 Matchbox kits

Inspired by Lisa Comfort's travels to India, the Indian Matchbox Kits from Sew Over It are a range of hand sewing projects, all beautifully packaged in giant matchboxes! Perfect for children and adults alike, these Chatting Birds would make a lovely present for a cherished friend. Priced £10.95, visit www.sewoverit.co.uk for more kits and classes.



7 Stag head

FOR A UNIQUE GIFT TRY THE MAKERY'S STAG HEAD KIT. ON-TREND WITH HIS FESTIVE ANTLERS, ALL YOU NEED TO CREATE HIM IS INSIDE THE BOX AND READY TO GO. THE FINISHED STAG MEASURES AROUND 40CM HIGH. PRICED £24.95, VISIT WWW.THEMAKERY.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

"I love the originality of this kit, it would be perfect for your more quirky friends and family"

Carolyn Kirkpatrick,
Editorial Assistant



10 Collar kit

For the fashionista who has it all, this gorgeous collar kit from Gather can be whipped up in no time at all in stunning green leopard print! Make either a rounded or square version. Priced £10, visit www.gatherkits.com



Derek the dinosaur

This little fella would be a fab gift for any little boy. Make him in their favourite print or colour for extra wow-factor, or create a pair to give to siblings. Priced £16, Cuddle Crew Patterns has a fabulous range of soft toys to stitch and each comes with step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and free video tutorials. Visit www.cuddlecrewpatterns.co.uk for more.



9 Kitty rag doll

From the ever-crafty Kirstie Allsopp, comes this wonderful set to make a stitched dolly. Complete with detailed instructions and everything you need to make her, plus a pretty floral dress for her to wear! Priced £20, visit www.hobbycraft.co.uk to see Kirstie's other fun projects.

Measure	cm
Front Centre Length	37.6
Back Centre Length	41.9
Front Full Length	44.3
Back Full Length	43.8
Front Shoulder	14.0
Back Shoulder	14.0
Bust Level	10.1
Bust Span	
Side Length	
Shoulder Length	
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Front Waist	
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KEY FEATURES

- ✓ 160 built-in designs
- ✓ Six fonts for monogramming
- ✓ Auto thread cutter
- ✓ On-screen design editing
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How to enter

Head to **www.sewmag.co.uk** and answer this simple question to be in with a chance of winning!

How many built-in embroidery designs does the Memory Craft 500E have?

- A) 160
- B) 200

The competition closes on **01.01.16**. See page 56 for terms and conditions.

Enter online at **www.sewmag.co.uk/giveaways**

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at home with...

STUART HILLARD

“I’ve discovered that almost all the joy lies in the making”

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring...’ apart from me frantically sewing the presents I had promised myself I would make for my friends and relatives. I had decided in a moment of madness that everyone should get something handmade this year. That good intention had come back to haunt me like the ghost of Christmas yet to be made, and the clock was ticking. Like all good Christmas Eve movies, I awoke to discover it was still only late November, and there was time to mend my ways. This led me to wonder how can we have a handmade Christmas without the nightmares?

“I decided in a moment of madness that everyone should get something handmade”

I’ve discovered over many years that almost all the joy lies in the making, so this year I have resolved to give all my friends and relatives a kit to make themselves something wonderful, and busy themselves with, to avoid the inevitable party games, family feuds and washing up. The men are getting Rowan Big Wool and instructions for arm knitting their own scarves. Innovative and novel, if nothing else it will keep fingers away from the mince pies. For the women it’s purse kits with fabric, metal frames and some fun embellishments. I’ll also make up small kits for cross stitch, how to crochet and some patchwork templates. I’ve got lots of crafty supplies for the children to create themselves jewellery and hats for New Year’s Eve parties. And for Charlie and me? I think our gift will be standing back and watching! I hope you all have a wonderful and crafty Christmas.

Stuart x



Our favourite home stitcher shares his festive plans

Style Advice

If you want bang on-trend decs this year there are several key looks. It’s all about metallics in copper and bronze. Team stars with glass baubles and spray painted fruit, to create a richly neutral theme filled with shine, sparkle and warmth. This style always sits well with the woodland look, which is back in. Red, gold and green make their usual appearance, but add lots of white to keep it fresh. Finally the absolute must-have this year is handmade, so get those little elves working now and fill your home with decorations you will keep forever.

Stuart’s Stash

My favourite thing to whip up at Christmas is a cocktail. Make sure you have a super duper cocktail shaker. I love this Rowen & Wren mason jar version from www.notonthehighstreet.com, priced £34.



HOME INSPIRATIONS

With all the extra guests at Christmas, it’s a good idea to check you have enough spare, clean bedding before they turn up. I give all my feather pillows a hot wash with detergent plus a capful of bleach and tumble dry them until they are bone dry. Duvets take a trip to the launderette. Give beds a quick festive makeover with easy and quick pillowcases in festive fabrics. You can find instructions in my book, *Sew Fabulous* for simple or embellished versions. A runner at the foot of the bed, or a brightly hued blanket and cushions makes a guest bed so inviting and is a quick way to freshen the look. Flowers always make a room special, but stick to a single type and colour. Plus, make sure there is some space in the wardrobe for guests’ clothes, there’s nothing worse than living out of a suitcase during party season!



www.homebase.co.uk

Catch Stuart on Create and Craft at www.createandcraft.tv, Virgin 748, Freeview 36 and Sky 674.

Modern Christmas

This season, go festive with a twist!

Break with tradition a little this year with a simple colour palette and paired back prints, to bring a fresh flavour to the classic Christmas look. Use contemporary designs with a geometric feel, and add a touch of sparkle with metallic colours to keep it glitzy, not chintzy.



Clockwise from bottom left: **1** Christmas Forest on White, Tinsel collection for Cotton + Steel, £13 per metre, [**www.sewhot.co.uk**](http://www.sewhot.co.uk)
2 May Arts ribbon metallic velvet in Turquoise, £1 per metre, [**www.prettyfabricsandtrims.co.uk**](http://www.prettyfabricsandtrims.co.uk) **3** Metallic Lyrca stretch foil fabric, £8.99 per metre, [**www.minervacrafts.com**](http://www.minervacrafts.com) **4** Red Reindeer Scatter on Cream, £10 per metre, [**www.elephantinmyhandbag.com**](http://www.elephantinmyhandbag.com) **5** Zig Zag Deer in Gold, £8 per metre, [**www.misformake.co.uk**](http://www.misformake.co.uk) **6** Chevron Red, Jingle collection for Robert Kaufman, £12.60 per metre, [**www.billowfabrics.co.uk**](http://www.billowfabrics.co.uk) **7** Mistletoe in Green, £13 per metre, [**www.elephantinmyhandbag.com**](http://www.elephantinmyhandbag.com) **8** Fairy Lights on White, £14 per metre, [**www.elephantinmyhandbag.com**](http://www.elephantinmyhandbag.com)

*A simple
colour scheme
keeps it
fresh*

*Use
unusual
fabrics
sparingly*

*Create
accessories
with bold
uncomplicated
prints*



Sue's STITCH SCHOOL

“Use tent stitch to create a joyful pillow”

Essentials

- Zweigart 10-count double canvas, 40cm x 65cm
- Backing fabric
- Six-stranded embroidery thread, variety of colours
- Embroidery frame
- Tapestry needle
- Cushion pad, 30cm x 55cm
- Pom pom trim, 180cm

Dimensions

30cm x 55cm

stitch a cushion

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the chart. Place the fabric in an embroidery frame. Measure and mark the centre of the fabric or sew a line of running stitch along the horizontal and vertical axis, dividing the fabric into four quarters.

2 Start working from the centre of the design outwards, on one of the inner edges of the letter O. Bring the needle from the back to the front of the work, leaving a short length of yarn behind and making sure you trap this tail under the first few stitches, to secure it.

3 Following the pattern, make one stitch for every coloured square on the chart, changing shade as you desire. Make sure that all stitches lie in the same direction. Once you have completed the letters, you can work the background, and finally the border. Remove the finished work from the frame.

4 The finished work may be slightly distorted. To get it back into shape, place it right side up on a rigid board,

This cheerful cushion features tent stitch, the basis for most needlepoint designs. It is worked in rows and looks similar to half cross stitch. Motifs are stitched on tapestry canvas using wool. Even if you've never tried your hand at needlepoint before, rest assured that it's quicker and easier than you might think. If you can cross stitch, then you can definitely do needlepoint! The main difference is that every part of the fabric is covered with stitches, essentially creating a tough, resilient fabric, perfect for a cushion or other item that will be subject to a lot of handling, and wear and tear.



slightly larger than the fabric, and spray all over with clean water. Starting from the centre of one side, just outside the line of stitches, pin it to the board. As you do this, pull the fabric, to make sure each corner is a right angle.

5 Add more pins, working on each side in turn, towards the corners. Once all the edges have been pinned, leave the work until it is completely dry; this can take a number of days. Remove the pins and trim the fabric,

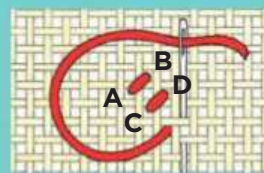
if necessary, leaving a 2.5cm margin all round.

6 Cut a piece of backing fabric the same size as the needlepoint. Place them right sides together and pin, then stitch all round, close to the edge of the stitching on three sides. Clip the corners and turn out. Place a cushion pad inside, tuck in the raw edges and slipstitch to close the gap. Pin pom pom trim all round, over the seamline, and stitch in place.

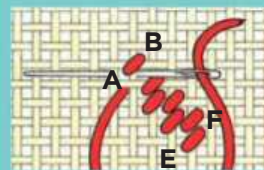
TENT STITCH

DIAGONAL

1 To work in diagonal rows, bring the needle out at A and insert it at B. Bring the needle out at C, two canvas strands below B and insert at D. Note that there is a free hole on the diagonal line between the stitches. Continue in this way.

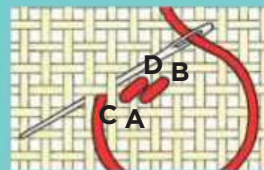


2 To work the next row, bring the needle out at E and insert it at F. Work along the row with the needle being inserted into the holes left between stitches in the previous row.



HORIZONTAL

1 To work in horizontal rows, start the first row on the right-hand side and work towards the left. Bring the needle through from the back of the work to the front at A and bring it back down at B, one canvas strand up and to the right of A. Bring the needle back up at C, next to A, and insert it at D, next to B. Continue in this way to the end of the row.



2 To work the next row, running in the opposite direction, bring the needle out at A and insert it at B, and so on.



Get into shape

When you have finished, the canvas will have been pulled out of shape by the stitches and you will have to block your work.

This can take a few days, so be sure to allow extra time for this.



Essentials

- Beige linen fabric, 70cm x 112cm
- Red cotton ticking, 70cm x 112cm
- Fabric scraps, four prints, 15cm square of each
- Felt, red, lime green, jade, 15cm square
- Stranded cotton, red, lime green, jade, cream
- Cream buttons, 24
- Elastic trim, 50cm
- String, 24m
- Wooden hanger
- Metal screw eyes, 24

Dimensions

42cm x 80cm



Make it personal advent calendar

Countdown to Christmas in style

A handmade advent calendar is sure to become a family heirloom to keep and use year after year. This shabby chic one by Lucy Hopping is adorable, and as each individual house has a little pocket inside, you can add your own special treats or gifts.



stitch an advent calendar

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Use the house front to cut out 24 from beige fabric and 24 from ticking. Trim eight doors each from red, lime green and jade felt. Use the window template to cut 12 each from four different fabrics.

2 Arrange two windows and one door onto 12 beige and 12 striped ticking house fronts. Sew around the edges of the windows and doors twice using a contrasting colour thread. Use whipped back stitch to number the doors 1 to 24 [1]. Fold back the top of the front pieces 5mm and press. Repeat on the blank pieces.

3 Using the roof and back templates, cut out 24 of each in both beige and ticking fabrics. Iron 5mm seams across the bottom of the roof pieces and press.

4 Cut string into 24 x 1m lengths. Place a beige back piece right side up, position a string along the centre with the

tip coming out the top of the roof, then place a front piece under the string and a roof piece on top, both right sides down. Ensure the pressed seams are touching. Sew around the edge using cream thread and a 4mm seam [2].

5 Turn the house out and press flat. Repeat, ensuring that the beige houses have ticking roofs and beige backs and the ticking fronts have ticking backs and beige roofs [3].

6 Repeat to make the inside pockets, omitting the strings and using a 8mm seam. Do not turn out. Trim the seams to 4mm then place them inside the decorated houses, wrong sides together.

7 Using invisible stitch, join the folded edges of the two pockets together, inserting a loop of elastic trim to the centre of the roof as you stitch. Sew a button to the front. Insert 24 eye screws into a hanger. Arrange the houses so that they sit at different levels, and tie them to the eyelets. Trim the excess string to complete.

the haberdashery

Linen blends

This linen blend in Flame Red by Robert Kaufman, Priced £12 per metre, is super festive, www.billowfabrics.co.uk



Heart print

Cut your windows from this sweet Heart Check in Raspberry Red and Linen by Westfalenstoffe. Priced £19 per metre, www.billowfabrics.co.uk



GREAT
SCRAP
BUSTING
PROJECT

Quilter's Corner

“It’s a miracle anyone gets a gift from me at all!”

Corinne talks preparing for a chaotic yet crafty Christmas

“What can I tell you about Christmas in my house that you’ve not read before in a thousand ‘at home’ features? I could regale you with amusing anecdotes and describe the family dinner table that creaks under the weight of festive fare, lovingly prepared over the whole of December. Or I could be totally honest and admit that, for me, Christmas tends to be a slapdash affair that is only thought about when my daughter comes home from school on a December Friday lunchtime and announces, “two weeks of freedom!”

I spend weeks preparing stuff for the festive period in my head, as I imagine most of us do. Realistically none of the groundwork gets done in time, so all the careful planning and daydreaming goes to waste, filed in the back of my mind under ‘next year’. For the last three years I’ve (horror of horrors) had a shop-bought pudding because Stir up Sunday has passed me by in a flurry of spring themed projects. For those of you wondering, the last Sunday of the church year, before Advent begins, is Stir up Sunday. It’s the traditional day for everyone in the family

to take a turn at stirring the Christmas pudding mix, whilst making a wish. Perhaps I could wish for more time?

All the Christmas decorations I’ve made over the years are hidden somewhere in the house and normally get rediscovered every February, only to be put somewhere safe until the next time. I’m equally bad at clearing up after Christmas. I try to take everything down by Twelfth Night because I’m the tiniest bit superstitious, but I hold my hands up to the fact that the hanging paper snowflakes stayed tacked to the passageway ceiling all

summer because I’m short and rarely look up!

With all this disorganisation it’s a miracle anyone in my family gets a gift from me at all. Thankfully this is the part that I am good at, putting aside hand stitched projects throughout the year with a view to gifting them. It’s a system that’s kept all the womenfolk happy for a few years now, but I’m struggling to think of something that my electrician brother-in-law would like. A quilted tool belt perhaps?”

Find these adorable stuffed robins in the December issue of our sister magazine, *Crafts Beautiful* out now, www.crafts-beautiful.com



CORINNE BRADD



Corinne loves...

These oversized button knobs would be the perfect finishing touch to a stash-filled set of drawers. They come in some fab colours, too. Priced £2.95, visit www.trinca-ferro.com to see their full range.



Country Living Christmas Fair

Join the celebration at the Country Living Christmas Fair and discover a treasure trove of Christmas magic! Visit Harrogate from 3rd-6th December to shop everything from beautiful handmade decorations to festive linen – find everything you could ever want for your home this holiday season. Visit www.countrylivingfair.com for tickets and more information.

For tickets and enquiries for the Country Living Christmas Fair, visit www.countrylivingfair.com

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FEATURING
{CANVAS} & **[knits]**
SOLIDS

BLOCK of the MONTH

CREATE A COMFY SETTING WITH THIS MONTH'S

Pinwheel floor cushions



At this time of year we tend to get together with loved ones and fill our home with friends and family. If you're stuck for places for people to sit, try these super soft floor cushions to help make your extra guests feel welcome. Featuring a pretty pinwheel block using the Anna Elise collection by Bari J for Art Gallery Fabrics, they have a delicate, whimsical feel.

We show you how!



create a block

1 Cut four 6cm x 16cm pieces from dark fabric, plus four 6cm x 16cm and four 6cm x 11cm rectangles from a paler pattern. Snip four 6cm x 11cm shapes from a mid-tone fabric. Place a mid-tone rectangle face up in a portrait position and fold the bottom left corner towards the right hand edge to make a 45° angle. Finger press to make a visible crease.

2 Place a pale shape face up in a landscape position and place the creased rectangle face down on top at a 90° angle, so the diagonal crease runs across the bottom right-hand corner of the pale rectangle. Stitch along this line. Open out and press the triangular excess towards the darker fabric.

3 Lay a dark 6cm x 16cm rectangle right sides facing over the top of the bi-colour strip and stitch along the left-hand edge. Sew the remaining pale strip to the other side of the first section. Make up three more blocks in the same way. Press all four blocks.

4 Lay the four blocks together so the darker coloured strips meet in the middle and the mid-tone prints point to the edges of the square. Stitch together to make a pinwheel block.

make a pillow

1 Make up four blocks from a variety of coordinating fabrics, and sew them together to make a 61cm square. Pin this to a square of 4oz quilt wadding and topstitch around the lines of the pinwheel, working from the centre out.

2 Cut a 61cm square from coordinating fabric. Lay the quilted panel on top, right sides facing, and sew around the edges, leaving a gap. Turn out through the gap. Push out the corners and topstitch around the cushion cover, 5mm from the edge. Insert a cushion pad and continue stitching.

stitch a floor cushion

1 Make a quilted panel the same way as for the pillow. Cut several 4cm wide strips from printed fabric and sew them together end to end to make two pieces, each at least 2.6m long. Fold the strips around lengths of piping cord, right side out and use a zipper foot to stitch the fabric together, close to the cord, leaving a raw edge along the length.

2 Cut 13cm wide strips from pale fabric and sew them end to end to make a piece 2.5m long. Pin this to quilt wadding and topstitch down the centre. Stitch at 3cm intervals from this line on either side, so the outer lines are close to the edges. Trim the wadding to the fabric.

3 Cut two 32cm x 61cm pieces of cotton backing fabric. Sew them right sides together, leaving a 20cm gap in the middle of the seam. Press the raw edges in line with the seam and hem them with tacking stitches.

4 Pin and tack the two lengths of piping around the edges of the cushion top and the backing fabric, with the raw edges aligned, easing the piping at the corners and overlapping the ends in the centre of one side, so the excess piping runs off the edge of the panels.

5 Pin the quilted side strip to one edge of the cushion top, right sides together, sandwiching the piping between the two and making a join at one corner. Sew the strip in place with a zipper foot, as close to the piping as possible. Join the side strip ends at a corner, right sides together and trim away any excess fabric.

6 Sew the backing fabric and piping to the other edge of the side strip in the same way, turning out through the gap in the back panel. Push out the corners of the cushion. Fill with polystyrene beans, using a jug to prevent spills. Pin the folded edges of the backing fabric together and slip stitch to close.



Essentials

- Coordinating prints, fat quarters
- Printed cotton, 2m
- 4oz quilt wadding, 1m
- Cushion pad, 60cm square
- Piping cord, 1cm wide, 5.5m
- Polystyrene beans

Dimensions

Block: 30cm square

Cushions: 60cm square

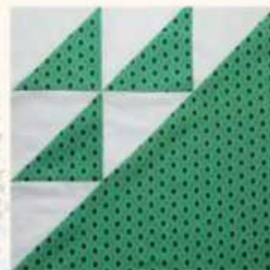
Note: Use a 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.



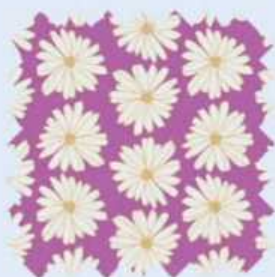
“Create an ombré effect by using different shades of the same colour in each block”

Coming next month

MAKE A BIRDS IN THE AIR BLOCK WITH THE NEXT ISSUE OF SEW!



the haberdashery



Daisies Lilac Scent

Bold floral on a luscious purple.



Geo Mist Frost

A spritz of fresh green patterns.



Tribal Study Jewel

Aztec designs in pretty pastels.

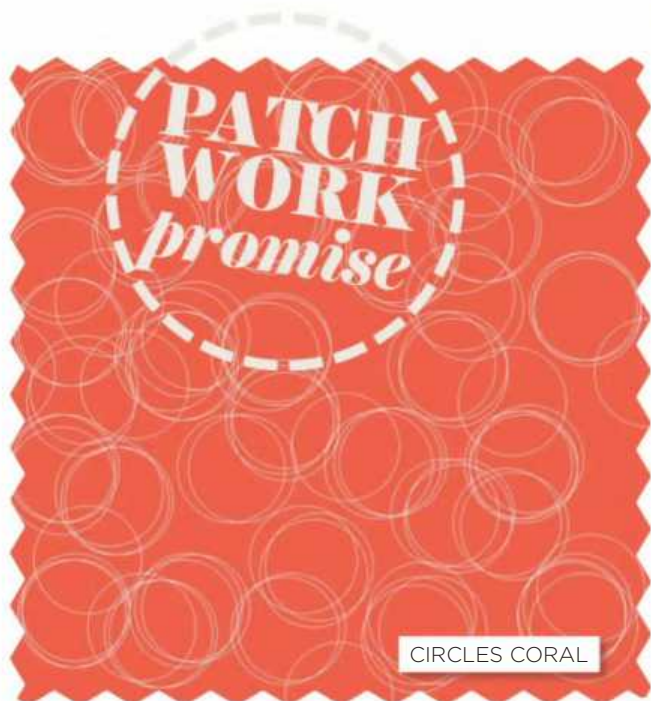
We used the cheerful Anna Elise range by Bari J for Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists, visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf

love that

FABRIC

NEW PATCHWORK COLLECTIONS,
PERFECT FOR THE SEASON

This month's trend is Aztec-inspired prints in rich, natural tones. Bound by April Rhodes for Art Gallery Fabrics features designs drawn from nature in organic hues of sea green and sunset orange, and is complemented by Simple Simon and Company's Four Corners range for Riley Blake, with its colourful totem like images and warm palette. The two collections combined would be perfect for making snuggly quilts and pretty home décor.



CIRCLES CORAL



WEAVE GOLD



WEAVE WHITE



For Riley Blake Designs, visit www.rileyblakedesigns.com



"Four Corners was designed by sister-in-laws Elizabeth Evans and liZ Evans at Simple Simon and Company.

Elizabeth loves clean, simple, symmetrical shapes paired with shades of black and white while liZ is a huge fan of geometric patterns and the bold colours of the southwest."

Elizabeth & liZ Evans, Simple Simon and Company



FOUR CORNERS MAIN TEAL

On-trend monochrome



STRIPE WHITE



TRIANGLE TEAL

Bold and beautiful

PAINTING CELEBRATION



SURVEY HERON



MACRAME LACE



BOUND HOMEBODY



For Art Gallery Fabrics, visit www.hantex.com/agf



COMING HOME SPRING



GROWTH JOY

Sunset hue



"My inspiration sprung from my love of making and collecting: woven wall hangings, cosy blankets and paintings. The Survey Heron print was drawn directly from plants and shapes in my own yard and the heron was perched on my chimney the first time I saw our house."

April Rhodes, Art Gallery Fabrics

THIS MONTH'S PANTONE COLOURS

Get creative with dessert inspired hues and rich tones



CORAL 15-1456 TN



RADIANT YELLOW 15-1058 TPX



TEAL BLUE 17-5024 TCX

The colours displayed on the Pantone swatches may be limited to CMYK printing process.

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Great gift idea!

Merry kissmas hoop

Embroider a festive message for the one you love

Find how
to satin and
back stitch on
page 100

Steal as many kisses as you fancy this Christmas with Sarah Bracken's sweet design. Change the message to your best-loved carol, or a recipient's favourite saying for the ultimate in personalisation. Using back and satin stitches, this is the perfect project for a beginner, and will make a great gift or decoration for your home this season.





Get creative

Design your own hoop
with your favourite
Christmas song title!

Essentials

- Plain cotton fabric
- Embroidery hoop, 6"
- Embroidery thread, two colours
- Embroidery needle
- Carbon paper

stitch a hoop

1 Trace the template opposite or visit www.sewmag.co.uk and print. Cut a 21cm x 30cm piece of plain fabric. Place carbon paper on top, coloured side down. Position the template over the carbon paper and draw over the design with a pencil, pressing firmly.

2 Put the fabric in an embroidery hoop, making sure it's taut. Cut the excess to 5cm all round. Thread a needle with three strands of your desired colour of embroidery thread, starting with the bow. Making sure to secure the thread on the reverse, work back stitch for the outline of the design and the 'Merry Kissmas!' and satin stitch for filling spaces. Use the stitch guide on page 100 to help you.

3 When you've finished embroidering, trim and tidy up the loose threads on the reverse of your design. Fold the excess fabric to the back of the frame. Work tacking stitches around it and tie the ends together. This will allow you to tighten the fabric if it becomes loose in the frame.



the haberdashery



Embroidery hoops

A multi purpose must have. Priced £2.04 for a 6" hoop, www.stitcher.co.uk, 0161 464 7310.



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Festive wreath & decs

Stitch some seasonal adornments for your home

Give the traditional Christmas wreath a makeover with colourful felt and modern festive prints. Individually stitched, then layered around a hoop base, you can customise this holiday essential to suit your décor. The bird decorations are super quick to make and are a great stash buster for all your pretty scraps.

Essentials

- Fat quarters, three
- Felt, three shades of green, white glitter, ochre, red, beige
- Embroidery hoop, 10"
- Light brown cotton tape
- Fusible interfacing
- Merry Christmas ribbon
- Green chevron ribbon
- White ric rac
- Buttons, two
- Tiny black beads
- Toy stuffing
- PVA glue
- Glitter glue

Dimensions

Wreath: 26cm diameter

Hanging birds: 8cm x 12cm



make a wreath

1 Turn to p102 and trace the templates. Cover the inner hoop of a 10" embroidery frame with light brown cotton tape, securing the end with glue on the back.

2 Using the templates, draw around the large oval leaves nine times onto bright green felt. Place each one on top of a piece of scrap paper and machine stitch in darker thread all around, just in from the edge and up and down the middle. Cut each one out. Repeat this with the large holly and mistletoe leaves, using different shades of green felt. Remove the paper.

3 Use the smaller leaf template to cut four oval leaves from mistletoe fabric and five smaller holly leaves in holly print. Back them all with interfacing. Place each one on a corresponding larger leaf, and stitch up and down the middle. Using the picture as a guide, layer the leaves around the hoop, securing with small amounts of glue. Once dry, stick the remaining leaves onto the back of the hoop as desired.

4 Cut a small section of peppermint twist fabric and back it with interfacing. Carefully snip out 12 of the individual pinwheel circles. Cut five slightly larger circles from white felt and seven from red. Place each fabric circle onto a felt one, and machine stitch in red across the middle of each. Wind a length of Christmas print ribbon around the top section of the hoop and secure the raw ends at the back behind a leaf with glue. Set aside.

5 Use the templates to cut a bird front and back body from white felt, plus a chest (gusset) from peppermint twist print. Cut a front chest piece from mistletoe print, reversing the template to cut a back chest. Pin these in place on the felt and stitch around the inner curve, just in from the fabric edge. Cut two beaks from ochre felt and stitch in place on the body.

6 Place the bird front and back, wrong sides together, and machine or hand stitch in white thread, just in from the edge of the felt from the top of the beak at point A, around the top of the bird to point B. Sew a small black bead to either side for eyes.

7 Fold the top layer of felt up, out of the way. Place the chest gusset section right side up onto the wrong side of the bottom layer, aligning the bottom edges and stitch just in from the bottom edge from point C to D. Turn the bird over to the other side and pull the felt out, so that it's flat, and the remaining raw edge aligns with the last raw edge of the white felt. Stitch just in from the edge as before.

8 Push stuffing through the gap between points A and D until firm and close by hand stitching. Cut two wings from white felt and two slightly smaller from interfaced peppermint twist print, reversing the template for the other side. Pin each pair together and stitch just inside the edge of the fabric. Pin the wings in place on either side of the bird and secure with a button.

9 Cut a length of green chevron ribbon, fold it in half and knot the ends together. Thread around the top of the hoop and pass the end back through the loop, pulling tight. Take a

length of white ric rac trim, thread it between the chevron ribbon and the hoop, and secure both raw ends to the back of the neck of the bird.

10 Cover the ends with a scarf ribbon as shown, securing with a small amount of glue. Add silvery glitter glue to the wings, red glitter glue to the berries on the wreath and position a green chevron bow to finish.

stitch hanging birds

1 Use the templates provided to cut two complete bird shapes, including the crown, from felt. Use the slightly smaller size to cut a bird shape from patterned fabric and a crown in coordinating felt. Interface the fabric sections.

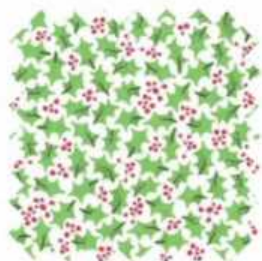
2 Pin the fabric to the middle of one of the felt bird pieces, and stitch all the way around it, just in from the fabric edge. Stitch the crown in the same way, adding loops of decorative stitching across the top.

3 Place the remaining piece of felt to the back, matching all edges, and pin the two together. Make a loop from ribbon, placing the raw ends in between the felt before sewing all the way around, over the first line of stitching.

4 Decorate each crown with a star shaped button and dots of glitter glue. For the winged bird, make two loops from printed ribbon and cover and secure the raw ends with a peppermint twist and felt circle, stitching across the middle. To finish, add beads for eyes.



the haberdashery



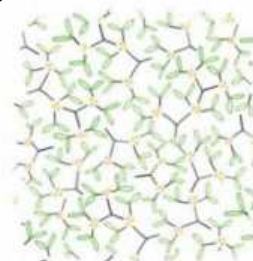
Holly

Pretty holly,
without the spikes!



Peppermint Twist

Delicious swirls of
candy print.



Mistletoe

Perfect for kissing
under your wreath.

We used the Festive range by Jo Clark for Cloud9 Fabrics. Visit www.hantex.com/cloud9fabrics for stockists.

Christmas made easy

Essentials

- Felt, selection
- Bead stringing wire
- Crimp beads
- Coordinating beads, crystals, sequins
- Flat-nosed pliers

Dimensions

Small baubles: 8.5cm diameter

Large bauble: 10.5cm diameter

concertina baubles

Deck the halls in contemporary style

These stunning concertina felt baubles by Jane Kharade are impressive but surprisingly simple to make. Made by layering felt circles and adding a few stitches, we've created them in different sizes and embellished with coordinating beads and glittering sequins. Whip up a few for a quick update for your tree this year!



stitch a grey decoration

1 Make a 10.5cm diameter cardboard template and use to cut out 12 felt circles, four of each colour: red, grey and cream. Press each in half with a hot iron and make a small nick with scissors at the top and bottom [1].

2 Layer in a sequence of one red, two grey, two cream, two red, two grey, two cream, and one red. The centre folds should be facing, except for the first which should point in the opposite direction.

3 Bind the circles together tightly with bead stringing wire, making sure it rests in the nicks and add a crimp bead. Secure by gently crushing with flat-nosed pliers [2]. Create the concertina effect by stitching the layers together in sequence, alternating between the top and bottom [3].

4 Thread a selection of red and silver beads onto the ends of the wire. Secure with another crimp. Trim to the desired length and use another crimp to form a hanging loop. Finish off the bauble by stitching or gluing on a selection of coordinating sequins.

make mini baubles

1 Make smaller versions with a 8.5cm diameter cardboard template and two or three colours of felt. Fold all of the circles in half and cut small notches at the top and bottom of each, as before.

2 Lay the shapes on top of one another with the centre fold facing, reversing the first. Make up as for the larger design using bead stringing wire, sewing the layers together alternately. Embellish with sequins, as desired.

**YOU CAN USE THIN
RIBBON INSTEAD
OF BEAD STRINGING
WIRE, IF YOU PREFER.**

Did you know?

Crimps are tiny beads used in jewellery making to secure clasps and beads.



the haberdashery



Wool felt

Make your baubles in quality wool felt, see www.hantex.co.uk for stockists.



Jewellery making supplies

Shop bead stringing wire, crimps and more at www.spoiltrottenbeads.co.uk

Essentials

- Coordinating fabrics: 11 long quarter metres; scraps, 12
- Snowflake fabric, 100cm
- Christmas tree print fabric, 70cm x width
- Turquoise fabric, 12.5cm x width
- Ivory fabric
- Wool, five colours
- Pom pom maker (optional)

Dimensions

Bunting: 6m

Santa sack: 50cm square

Santa sack & bunting

Sew up these seasonal essentials in jolly prints

A glorious combination of novelty fabrics and fluffy pom poms, this generously sized present sack is a fun and festive way to store and give presents this Christmas.

Stuart Hillard has used fabrics from the Winter Wonderland collection for FreeSpirit, and created a matching bunting garland too!

sew festive bunting

1 Make a triangle template, with a base 17.5cm and 22.5cm centre line. Cut out 44; four each of 11 printed fabrics. Keep in matching pairs, right sides together. Stitch both long edges, leaving the top open, reverse sewing at the beginning and end of each seam to secure. Turn out and press. Make a total of 22 pennants.

2 To make binding, cut six 3.7cm wide ivory strips across the width of the fabric. Join end to end with a 6mm seam allowance. Fold and press in half then press 6mm of each raw edge into the centre, creating a folded tape.

3 Make pom poms, using a medium sized pop pom maker, if desired. Carefully snip in between the form using pointed scissors. Tie through the centre with 30cm of yarn. Knot tightly but leave the tie attached. Remove the forms. Make a total of 21 in assorted colours.

4 Leave 15cm of the folded tape free, then insert the triangles between the fold, spacing them evenly. Place a pom pom between each triangle, leaving 10cm of tie. Knot the end and insert into the folded tape. Pin carefully. Sew along the lower edge, catching both sides and enclosing the raw edge of each triangle and knotted yarn.

make a Santa sack

1 Make six pennants and four pom poms as for the bunting. From snowflake fabric, cut two panels 50cm square for the front and back of the sack. Trim two 3.7cm x 50cm strips from ivory fabric. Sew one to the top edge of each panel. Press the seams towards the main fabric.

2 Lay three pennants and two pom poms with 10cm ties on top of each panel, leaving 2.5cm free at either end, and overlapping the triangles slightly. Tack in place. From Christmas tree fabric, cut two 27.5cm x 50cm cuff strips. Sew one to the top of each main panel.



3 Place the sack front and back right sides together matching the side seams carefully. Measure 5cm up from the ivory contrast strip on both sides and place a pin. Sew down from the top cuff edge to the pin mark. Leave 5cm unsewn then continue sewing down the side, across the bottom and up the other edge, leaving a gap as before.

4 Press the side seams open but leave the bottom unpressed. Topstitch around the 5cm openings to neaten. Press a double 2.5cm hem on the raw edge of the cuff then fold down into the sack until it meets the seam between the cuff and the ivory strip. Pin, then sew in place. Topstitch the top and bottom of the cuff.

5 Create a gusset at the bottom corners of the sack by bringing the side and base seams together, right sides facing. Flatten and measure 7.5cm in from the tip. Mark a line then stitch. Trim the corner away leaving

a 6mm seam allowance. Repeat on the other side.

6 Make the tie by cutting two 6cm strips from the width of turquoise fabric. Join together, then fold in half right sides facing. Sew the long edge and one short edge. Turn through and press. Neaten the raw edge by tucking 1cm inside and stitching. Attach a safety pin to one end and pass through a side opening. Bring back to the start, pull the ends even, and tie them in a bow.

Go big!

Adjust the length of the sack to house more presents as desired!



the haberdashery



Snowflakes

We used this bold red snowflake print for the main part of our Santa sack.



Tree Farm

With leaping foxes in a field of Christmas trees, this print is lots of fun.



Merry Snowmen

Cheerful snowmen and Santas on a peppermint background.

Stuart used the Winter Wonderland collection for FreeSpirit by David Walker Studios. See www.makeitcoats.co.uk for stockists.

Next month in **sew**

- *New year, new skill... in 60 minutes!*
- *Behind the scenes of Angels the Costumiers*
- *Make a dress in a day!*



**Leather
party clutch**



**Card trick
cushions**



**Lampshade making,
in step-by-step!**



Girl's Peter Pan tunic

*Relaxed style
- perfect
for off-duty
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*"Make in cool chambrays, linen
and cottons. Or take it up a
notch in gauze or crêpes"*

January issue on sale 18th December



Need to know

Debbie Shore shows you how...

Pleating

This technique of adding a frill to a cushion cover or pillow case is great for beginners as it will ensure your pleats are evenly spaced, giving a professional look to your project.

1 Cut fabric for your cushion cover and measure around the outside. Mine is 33cm x 45.7cm, therefore the outer edge measures 157cm. Double

this measurement, and add a 2.5cm seam allowance.

2 Cut a 317.5cm strip of fabric, 10.2cm wide. You may need to join two or three pieces together. Sew the ends together with a 1.3cm seam allowance to make a large loop [**1**]. Fold it in half lengthways, wrong sides together, and press [**2**].

3 If you're using a square piece of fabric for your cushion, fold the loop into quarters and mark four equal points around the edge. For a rectangular cover, measure and mark 91.4cm (twice the width of the fabric) then

66cm (twice the length), then repeat, so that the loop is still divided into four.

4 Pin each marked point on the loop, facing inwards, to each corner of the fabric. Then pin the middle of the frill to the centre of the fabric. This gives you a smaller area to pleat, which makes it easier to make them even [**3**].

5 Make a small box pleat in each corner, then in the centre of each side [**4**]. Fold the pleats in opposite directions away from the centre of each side, pinning as you go [**5**]. At this point, the pleats are easy to re pin if they're not even. When you're happy with them, sew all the way round [**6**]. Make up your cushion cover and press.

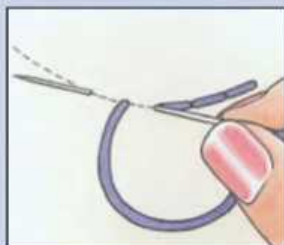
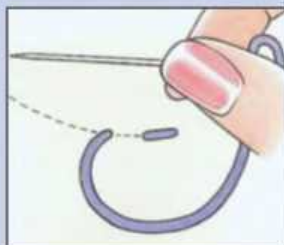
For more from Debbie, visit www.debbieshore.tv



Essential Stitches

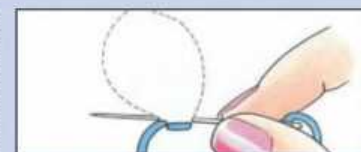
Use these stitches in everyday hand sewing

BACK STITCH A continuous single line of stitching



1 Secure the thread on the wrong side of the fabric and bring the needle through to the surface to start the first stitch. Move a stitch length backwards along the sewing line, take the needle back through the fabric, then bring it to the surface at the end position of this stitch.

2 Moving back along the stitching line, take the needle down through the same hole as the previous thread. Bring it to the surface for the end position of the stitch. Repeat along the sewing line to create even stitches.



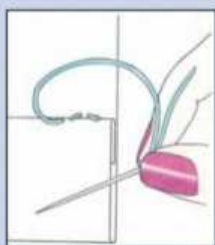
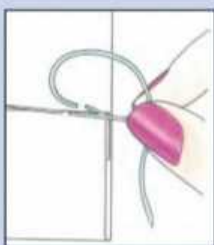
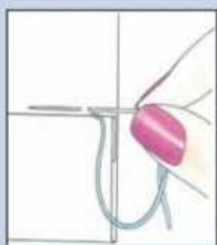
SATIN STITCH

A decorative stitch which requires parallel lines of thread to fill in a design

1 Start by securing the thread on the wrong side of the work. Pull the needle through to the surface on the base of the outline to be filled. Take the needle to the outline on the opposite side and push the needle back through to form a long, straight stitch.

2 Take the needle down next to the end of the first stitch and under the work, bringing it back through at the start of the previous stitch forming a parallel line of thread. Repeat this process until the desired area is filled.

SLIP STITCH Small stitches used for hemming or sewing up projects



1 Working on the fold in the fabric, secure the thread with a double stitch.

2 Pick up two threads of the fabric with the needle tip, then slip the needle through the fold of the hem. Bring the needle out 5mm along, then pick up two more threads of fabric before returning through the fold of the hem.

3 Pull the thread lightly as you work to tighten the stitches, being careful not to distort the fabric which makes the stitches

ESSENTIAL INFO AND ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFUL STITCHING

Measure up

The key to successful fitting is taking accurate body measurements and comparing them to those on the pattern envelope in order to make appropriate alterations.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

- Measure yourself in your underwear, preferably in the bra you will be wearing with your garment.
- Use a new tape measure as they can distort out of shape over time.
- Ask a friend to help you, especially with tricky measurements such as your back-neck to waist and height.
- Be honest with your measurements and remember pattern sizes are totally different to ready-to-wear high street sizes.
- Use your measurements to help you adjust the pattern to fit your shape, not forgetting to take the required ease into account.

My measurements

Bust

Waist

Hip

Back-neck to waist
length

STITCH DICTIONARY

Grain line

The grain line is the warp (longways) threads, parallel to the selvedge on a length of fabric.



1 Bust

Around the fullest part of the bust.

2 High bust

Around the chest, above the bust and under the arms.

3 Waist

Around the smallest part of your waist.

4 Hip

Around the fullest part of your hips.

5 Back-neck to waist length

From the base of the neck to the natural waistline.

6 Height

Measure standing against a wall.

Top 5 cutting tools

THESE ESSENTIAL BLADES WILL ENSURE THE BEST RESULTS FOR ALL YOUR PROJECTS.

Shears

Long, sharp blades make light work of cutting out patterns.

1

2

Embroidery scissors

Small, sharp scissors ideal for snipping threads and clipping into seams.

3

Pinking shears

Notched blades give a zig zag cut edge which helps to prevent fraying.

4

Rotary cutter

Used with a ruler and matt, the circular blade creates a fast method of cutting patchwork pieces.

5

Seam ripper

Slip the pointed end under stitches and use the sharp inside edge to splice through the thread.

PERFECT CUTS

Follow these tips for precise, stress-free fabric cutting

- Remember to press fabric before cutting out. Wrinkled cloth will make cutting tricky and it will change shape and size when ironed flat.
- If fabric is hanging over the cutting table, be careful that the weight doesn't stretch the piece out of shape.
- Pay attention to the pattern layout as this will alert you as to how the pieces should sit on the grain. Also, be mindful of whether your fabric has a nap or pile.
- Make sure the grain isn't twisted by straightening the selvedge, then find the exact grain line by using a quilter's ruler or by pulling and removing a weft thread (the grain will run 90° to this).
- Place pattern pieces on the wrong side of your fabric so you can transfer symbols and markings easily.
- Ensure your shears and pins are nice and sharp to avoid damaging the fabric or snagging threads. Alternatively, use pattern weights.

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ALY OWL
Designer: Lucinda
Ganderton
Page: 60
Shown at 100%



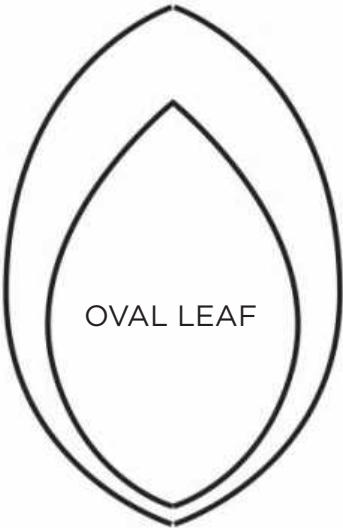
OWL BODY
Cut one



OWL FEET
Cut two

OWL TUMMY
Cut one

CHRISTMAS
WREATH & DECS
Designer: Carolyn Letten
Page: 92
Shown at 100%



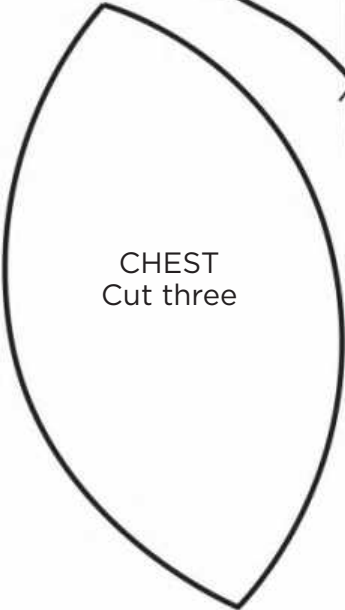
OVAL LEAF



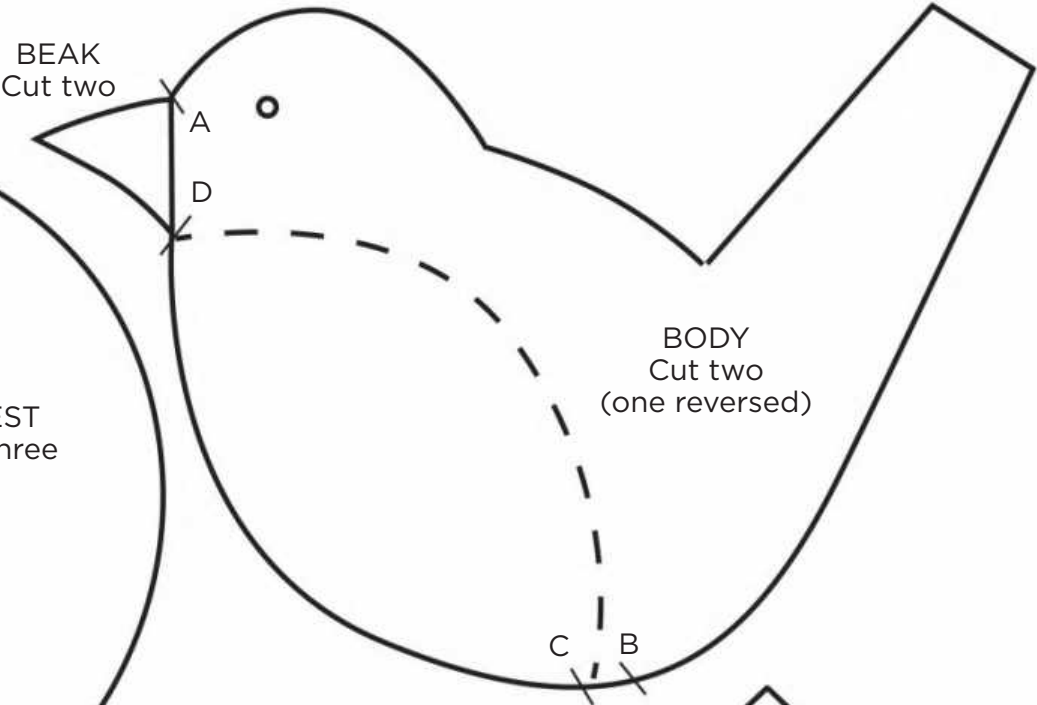
MISTLETOE LEAF



WING
Cut two
(one reversed)

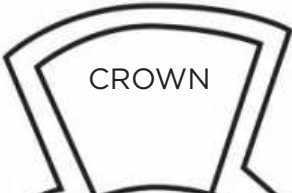


CHEST
Cut three

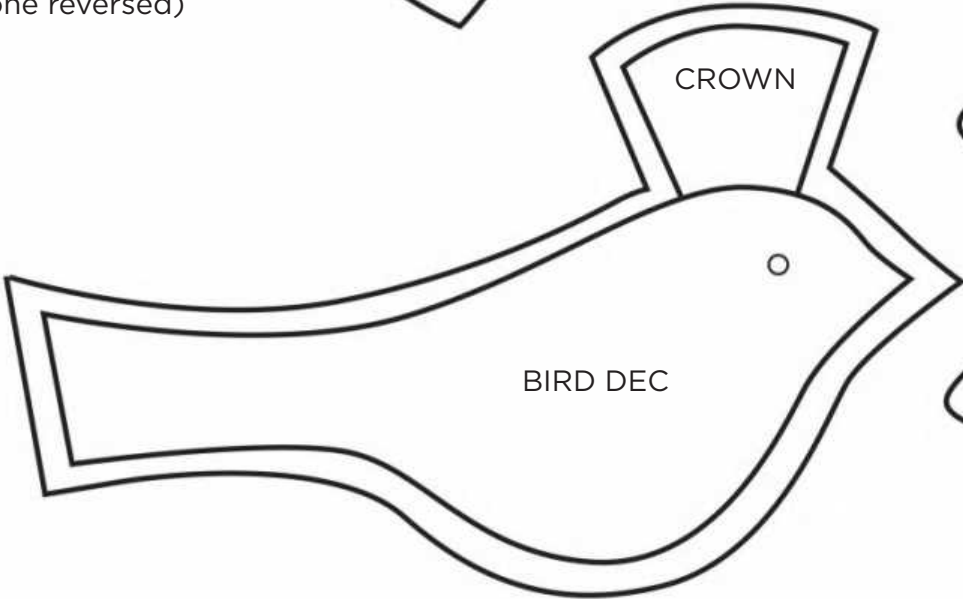


BEAK
Cut two

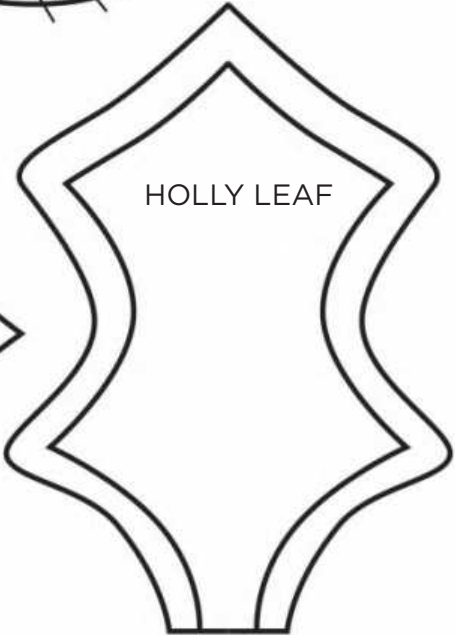
BODY
Cut two
(one reversed)



CROWN



BIRD DEC



HOLLY LEAF

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READING ROOM

*Our favourite new sewing books,
plus what's on the Sew blog*

meet the author



5 minutes with... Lucinda Ganderton

Talented *Sew* designer Lucinda Ganderton talks about her latest book, *A Block a Day*, a fascinating compendium of quilt blocks.

How did you go about the process of selecting blocks?

I wanted it to be a combination of traditional and modern designs, which would appeal to the complete novice and challenge experienced quilters. Some of the patterns date back at least 150 years, and the history behind them are captivating, so I wrote background information about each. I've adapted some of the older ones so that they are easier to make, with half-square triangles instead of fiddly set in seams.

What do you love most about making patchwork quilts?

I've been making patchwork since I was about 14 and haven't stopped since. I have always been a great collector of fabrics and I love to combine old and new materials. The blocks incorporate everything from fragments of my childhood dresses, to the newest quilting cotton.

Do you have a favourite block?

Basket of Cherries, traditionally made in red and white cotton, is a long term favourite. I also like the symmetry of all the star blocks. I wanted to design my own too, like trees and stylised animals that could be combined to make story quilts.

What block will you be making into a quilt first?

I designed four fruit blocks, a strawberry, pineapple, pear and plum, and I'd love to combine them to make a bright coloured quilt. I've also always loved the traditional basket designs, and would like to see how they would work together, perhaps set on point.

What colour schemes do you favour?

I love the modern quilters' trend for bright solids against a white background which gives a fresh, crisp look to any block.

WIN!
A COPY
ON P56!



A Block a Day by Lucinda Ganderton
(£19.99, Ivy Press).

Sew loves...

With a design aesthetic to inspire any craft lover, *London Stitch and Knit* seamlessly documents the city's best fabric, knitting and haberdashery stores, to provide a comprehensive shopping guide. Writer, photographer and sewist Leigh Metcalf discovers the hidden gems in London's ever-growing craft community, promoting independent shops as well as craftspeople and their work. Ever since arriving from the US, she has made it her mission to discover the best places for supplies. Drawing on her experiences, she combines well-informed narrative with illustrations and beautiful design, to showcase over 45 must-visit creative stores. Get your purse ready!



London Stitch and Knit by Leigh Metcalf
(£16.95, Black Dog Publishing).



on the Sew blog

www.sewmag.co.uk/blog

From designer interviews, to stichy inspiration and project ideas, if you're missing your monthly dose of *Sew*, head to our blog for your creative fix, until the latest issue drops through your door!





MARNA LUNT

Inspired by her childhood surroundings, Marna Lunt knew her life was destined to be a creative one

I have known for as long as I can remember that I need to create. Drawing and colour bring me confidence and happiness. I grew up on the North York Moors, in a house far away from any villages or towns, and my bedroom view was of moorland filled with heather, sheep and sky. My childhood soundtrack was the lapwings, the harsh wind and sheep calling. That landscape influenced everything; my state of mind, my idea of beauty, my attention to detail. My sense of colour and texture are born from those detailed moorland contours.

My style is quirky, colourful and individual. I draw lines and shapes to reflect personality and emotions, rather than focus on the mirror image of something. It's not about making something look perfect, it's about the journey your eye takes over the fabric. That feeling that the finished product evokes.

The deep rooted influence of the moors affects my palette frequently, even when drawing cities and people, but nothing gets the creative juices running quite like walking into a fabric shop or seeing swathes of embroidery thread skeins. Just thinking about a blank piece of fabric or paper excites me; the thought of what those pages could contain and what my mind could share with everyone.

Most of the time my work space is pretty untidy, although I find it hard to work in complete mess. I have collections of things I find beautiful everywhere. I need to be surrounded by items I love, I couldn't work in a white box. But I have to clean my room every few days to be able to start anything fresh, because once I start creating a piece I fling things everywhere in a frenzy of excitement.

“FOR ME, SEWING IS AN IMPORTANT LIFE SKILL AND A WAY OF SEEKING CALM AND PEACE”



One of my greatest joys has been discovering how much I love teaching. I never had patience before, and was frustrated if I couldn't just get on with things by myself. But since becoming a mother, I love sitting with people, discussing what they need and want, and helping them achieve it. Sewing is a life skill and one that I think should be taught at a basic level in all schools.

Some work can take a lot of mental energy, and to only work on that piece might result in resentment, so I like to mix up bigger projects with ones that give the instant gratification I need to keep me excited. I normally do one thing at a time, although when I have a very large project, it can sit in the background while I work on more pressing commissions. My favourite pieces often change, depending on what state of mind I am in. The Liberty lampshade will always be special to me, as it gained attention from people that have helped my career.

Next year I am concentrating on my online workshops and teaching at venues across the country, while working on my lampshades and gallery commissions. I have Fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome so my courses give me a way to earn a living and communicate with others, even when I'm too poorly to move and meet people face to face.

At the moment I love stitching portraits. Life drawing has always been a huge passion of mine, so to bring it into my work with textiles feels quite special. I am currently making a large portrait of my daughter as Little Red Riding Hood. It's hugely personal and will be something that we can share.

Find more at www.littleleadedesigns.co.uk

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